

Minutes for the Commission for Women

Commission for Women Meeting – November 13, 2023

Call to Order

The Commission for Women met on November 13, 2023, in Government Center conference rooms 9/10. The meeting was started at 7:18 p.m. by Phylicia Woods.

Attendees

Phylicia Woods – Providence District; Helen Cole – Hunter Mill District; Alyssa Batchelor – At-Large; Enjoli Ramsey – Braddock District; Carla Post – Dranesville District; Alesia Taylor-Boyd – Franconia District; Sabrina Rose-Smith – Mason District; Jordan Tautges – Springfield District; Pamela Montesinos – Sully District; Amber Beichler – At-Large; Liz Hernandez Ramirez – Student Representative.

Absent: Mattie Palmore emailed commission members earlier in the day stating that she was resigning from the commission effective November 13, 2023.

Staff in attendance: Lois Kirkpatrick

Visitors: None

Public Comment: None

Guest Speakers: Ashleigh Conrad

Start time: 7:17 p.m.

End Time: 10:00 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

Amber Beichler made a motion to approve the October minutes. Jordan Tautges seconded the motion. Enjoli Ramsey abstained because she missed the October meeting. None opposed; the motion passed.

Approval of Financial Report

Approval of the October financial report was moved to the December meeting.

Wellness Workshop: Mental Health and Self Care – Girls on the Run of Northern Virginia's Engagement Manager Ashleigh Conrad offered tools for self-care during the holiday season.

Old Business

Women's History Month 2024 – Phylicia Woods announced that the national theme for Women's History Month 2024 is diversity, equity and inclusion. Carla Post volunteered to write the proclamation that will be read by the Board of Supervisors when they announce March as Women's History Month in Fairfax County. These members offered to serve on the Women's History Month planning committee: Amber Beichler, Liz Hernandez Ramirez, Sabrina Rose-Smith and Jordan Tautges.

Social Media for 2024 – Jordan Tautges and Alesia Taylor-Boyd explained the process they've used for creating the commission's Facebook posts. Because the process can be time consuming, the commission agreed to cut back from weekly posts to two posts per month. The group wants more of a tie-in to the

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commission's two focus areas. Carla Post suggested that the social media committee create a year-long calendar of post subjects, and assign each commissioner to write a post. She also asked for performance metrics for the 2023 posts.

New Business

Commissioner Community Updates – Helen Cole made a motion to suspend the rules so that agenda items could be addressed out of order. Alyssa Batchelor seconded the motion. None opposed; none abstained. The motion passed unanimously.

Carla Post celebrated the election of new Dranesville District Supervisor James Bierman, who she said will be a strong supporter of the commission. She also announced that Cornerstones will have a Thanksgiving food drive. Alyssa Batchelor informed the group about the National Center of Women's Innovations, a new STEM organization. Pamela Montesinos said she can arrange a volunteer project for the commission at her work place, Western Fairfax Christian Ministries. She has also set up reproductive health classes for her Spanish-speaking clients, and she's working with the Dulles Area Transportation Association to teach elderly clients how to use transportation options.

Liz Hernandez Ramirez said the student group Health Workers of the Future would like guest speakers at their meetings. There is also a book drive for kindergarteners; commissioners can send donated books to Iris Lara at West Potomac High School by December 6. Sabrina Rose-Smith announced the election of new Mason District Supervisor Andres Jiminez. Helen Cole announced that Hunter Mill District Supervisor Randy Alcorn won his reelection.

Amber Beichler said that this is Transgender Awareness Week, and that November 20 is the Transgender Day of Remembrance. Commissioners were invited to a remembrance ceremony being held at Unity of Fairfax. Phylicia Woods said she was interviewed about the commission for a radio program, and will send the link to the interview to commissioners. She has also been elected to serve as the community liaison of the Council to End Domestic Violence.

Closed Session – Phylicia Woods moved to go into closed session to discuss matters allowed by Virginia Code Section 2.2-3711. Alyssa Batchelor seconded the motion. None opposed; none abstained. The motion passed unanimously. Following the discussion, Phylicia Woods moved to certify that only public business matters lawfully exempted by Virginia Code were discussed during the closed session. Alyssa Batchelor seconded the motion. None opposed; none abstained; the motion passed unanimously.

Main Motions

Phylicia Woods moved to go into closed session. Alyssa Batchelor seconded the motion. None opposed; none abstained. The motion passed unanimously. Phylicia Woods later made the "cleansing motion." Alyssa Batchelor seconded the motion. None opposed; none abstained; the motion passed unanimously.

Adjournment

Helen Cole moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:51 p.m. Alyssa Batchelor seconded the motion. However, the group then addressed the remaining agenda item, which was to take the annual group photo. The photo session concluded at 10 p.m.