

# Minutes for the Commission for Women

## Commission for Women Meeting January 8, 2024

### Call to Order

The Commission for Women met on January 8, 2024 in Government Center conference rooms 9/10. The meeting was called to order by Chair Phylcia Woods at 7:19 p.m.

**Attendees:** Alyssa Batchelor – At-Large; Amber Beichler – At-Large; Helen Cole – Hunter Mill District; Liz Hernandez Ramirez – Student Representative; Carla Post – Dranesville District; Enjoli Ramsey – Braddock District; Jordan Tautges – Springfield District; Phylcia Woods – Providence District.

**Remote Attendees:** Pamela Montesinos – Sully District participated from her home due to a child transportation responsibility.

**Absent:** Sabrina Rose-Smith – Mason District; Alesia Taylor-Boyd – Franconia District.

**Staff:** Toni Zollicoffer, Lois Kirkpatrick

**Visitors:** U.S. Congressman Gerry Connolly’s Deputy Director of Outreach Maddy White

**Public Comment:** Maddy White

**Guest Speakers:** None

**Start time:** 7:19 p.m.

**End Time:** 9:24 p.m.

**Approval of Remote Participants:** Alyssa Batchelor made a motion to approve the remote participation of Pamela Montesinos. Carla Post seconded the motion. None opposed; none abstained. The motion passed unanimously.

**Approval of Minutes:** Alyssa Batchelor made a motion to approve the December minutes. Helen Cole seconded the motion. None opposed; none abstained. The motion passed unanimously.

**Approval of Financial Report:** Alyssa Batchelor made a motion to approve the December financial report. Amber Beichler seconded the motion. None opposed; none abstained. The motion passed unanimously.

**Commissioner Community Updates:** Phylcia Woods announced that former commissioner Lanita Thweatt invited the commission to collaborate with the local NAACP on their Women’s History Month event. Helen Cole announced that January 18 is the National Stalking Awareness Day of Action. She also invited commissioners to register for the county’s Sexual Violence Tier 1 training.

Alyssa Batchelor reported that Loudoun County Public Schools Teacher Jessica Berg has invited the commission to staff a table at the Rise 2 Summit on March 2. Alyssa Batchelor also reminded the group that she’s serving on the Consolidated Community Funding Pool. Carla Post reported that her new district supervisor, Jimmy Bierman, will be a strong commission supporter. Additionally, she announced that the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention is offering “Talk Saves Lives: An Introduction to Suicide Prevention” on January 11.

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## Old Business

**Women's History Month Committee:** Committee Chair Jordan Tautges reported on the committee's work and presented their proposal to host a community event in May at which a panel of experts would discuss the findings of "The Status of Women and Girls in Fairfax County" research being conducted by the University of Virginia. She also led a discussion about various options for a Women's History Month event or activity that could be held in March. Toni Zollicoffer proposed that the commission assist the researchers by getting anecdotes from community members to include in the study, which will be presented at a Fairfax County government event on Friday, March 22 from 2-4 p.m. in the Government Center board auditorium. Alyssa Batchelor made a motion to approve having the Women's History Month Committee decide on how the commission will celebrate Women's History Month this year. Helen Cole seconded the motion. None opposed; none abstained. The motion passed unanimously.

In addition, Jordan Tautges made a motion for the commission's executive committee to vote to approve the Women's History Month proclamation after receiving suggested edits from commissioners. Enjoli Ramsey seconded the motion. None opposed; none abstained. The motion passed unanimously.

**Committee Work Sessions:** The Violence Against Women Committee selected Amber Beichler as its chair. Instead of meeting independently in February, the committee agreed to have its next meeting as part of a work session at the March commission meeting. The Mental Health and Teen Depression Committee selected Enjoli Ramsey as its chair. The committee will have its next meeting right before the February commission meeting.

## New Business

**Speaking to Girl Up Groups:** Alyssa Batchelor made a motion to take agenda items out of order. Helen Cole seconded the motion. None opposed; none abstained. The motion passed unanimously. Liz Hernandez-Ramirez said that a student organization called Liberty's Promise would like individual commissioners to give talks on how they make an impact through their careers and their participation in community groups. Liz Hernandez-Ramirez will send Lois Kirkpatrick available dates and times for commissioners to speak to the high school students.

## Main Motions

Alyssa Batchelor made a motion to approve having the Women's History Month Committee decide how the commission will celebrate Women's History Month this year. Helen Cole seconded the motion. None opposed; none abstained. The motion passed unanimously.

Jordan Tautges made a motion for the commission's executive committee to vote to approve the Women's History Month proclamation after receiving suggested edits from commissioners. Enjoli Ramsey seconded the motion. None opposed; none abstained. The motion passed unanimously.

**Adjournment:** Alyssa Batchelor made a motion to adjourn. Amber Beichler seconded the motion. None opposed; none abstained. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 9:24 p.m.