

Minutes for the Commission for Women

Commission for Women Meeting February 12, 2024

Call to Order

The Commission for Women met on February 12, 2024 virtually on Zoom. The meeting was called to order by Chair Phylcia Woods at 7:17 p.m.

Attendees: Alyssa Batchelor – At-Large; Amber Beichler – At-Large; Pamela Montesinos – Sully District; Liz Hernandez Ramirez – Student Representative; Enjoli Ramsey – Braddock District; Sabrina Rose-Smith – Mason District; Jordan Tautges – Springfield District; Alesia Taylor-Boyd – Franconia District; Phylcia Woods – Providence District.

Absent: Helen Cole – Hunter Mill District; Carla Post – Dranesville District.

Staff: Toni Zollicoffer, Lois Kirkpatrick

Visitors: None

Public Comment: None

Guest Speakers: None

Start time: 7:17 p.m.

End Time: 9:26 p.m.

Approval of Minutes: Alyssa Batchelor made a motion to approve the January minutes. Amber Beichler seconded the motion. None opposed. Alesia Taylor-Boyd and Sabrina Rose-Smith abstained. The motion passed.

Approval of Financial Report: Jordan Tautges made a motion to approve the January financial report. Sabrina Rose-Smith seconded the motion. None opposed; none abstained. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Community Updates: Alyssa Batchelor, who is serving on the Selection Advisory Committee of the county's Consolidated Community Funding Pool, plans to submit feedback to the organizers expressing that the application should be revised to be more easily understood by potential applicants who are not professional grant-writers, or are not college-educated, or do not have English as their first language. Alyssa Batchelor also invited commissioners to the March 2 Rise to Summit being held at an Ashburn high school.

Pamela Montesinos reported that Western Fairfax Christian Ministries is seeking new board members. She'll email the info to commissioners in case any want to apply. Alesia Taylor-Boyd toured Franconia District Supervisor Rodney Lusk's new Workforce Innovations and Skills Hub. She'll also attend the women's retreat hosted by the Lazera Keepin' It Real women's group in Alexandria February 23-25.

Jordan Tautges put this event in the shared file and all commissioners are invited: the Black Women's History Committee of the National Women's History Alliance's "Dialogue About Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging" on February 24. Amber Beichler agreed to give the acceptance speech at the

Minutes for the Commission for Women

Board of Supervisors' March 5 meeting where the Women's History Month proclamation will be presented. The Transgender Education Association has been invited to attend.

Liz Hernandez-Ramirez is working on organizing opportunities for commissioners to make presentations at school club meetings. Phylcia Woods said that Providence District Supervisor Dalia Palchik is hosting a Women's History Month menstrual product drive March 4-28. Commissioners were asked to encourage their supervisors to support the effort.

Old Business

Women's History Month Committee: Committee Chair Jordan Tautges led a discussion about how to make the commission's event in May distinct from the county's March 22 event where the University of Virginia's report on the Status of Women and Girls in Fairfax County will be presented. Phylcia Woods and Alyssa Batchelor will give closing remarks at the March 22 event. At the March commission meeting, the group will vote on a budget for the commission's May event.

The commission's report, "The Economic Impact of COVID-19 on Women in Fairfax County," will be transmitted to the Board of Supervisors in March as a "not in packet" informational item along with the "The Status of Women and Girls in Fairfax County" report. Alyssa Batchelor made a motion to include a note to the board acknowledging that while the report is dated (having been completed in December 2022), its recommendations to the board remain valid. Sabrina Rose-Smith seconded the motion. None opposed. Amber Beichler, Liz Hernandez-Ramirez and Jordan Tautges abstained. The motion passed.

Violence Against Women Committee: Committee Chair Amber Beichler reported that the committee is considering a collaboration with Congressman Gerry Connolly's office.

Mental Health and Teen Depression Committee: Committee Chair Enjoli Ramsey is waiting to hear back from Fairfax County Public School Mental Wellness Specialist Bethany Demers, who spoke at the commission's July 2023 meeting. The committee is considering organizing a mental health fair on a weekend in May in the Mt. Vernon district.

Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month Event: Phylcia Woods reported that the February event, which the commission had voted to spend up to \$800 to sponsor, was cancelled because the county staff organizing the event didn't have the capacity to host the event this year.

New Business

Giving Donations to Outside Organizations: Lois Kirkpatrick explained that state law prohibits the commission from giving money to outside groups. Virginia Code section 15.2-953 stipulates that the donation of county funds or property must be authorized by the Board of Supervisors. The board uses the Consolidated Community Funding Pool as the process by which it decides which community groups will get county funding. In addition, the commission is one of only two or three of the county's 80+ boards, authorities and commissions that receives county funds. It would give the impression that the commission doesn't need the money if the commission gives its money away to other organizations. Doing that could lead to reduced (or no) county funding in the future. Staff will find out whether the

Minutes for the Commission for Women

commission is allowed to be a financial sponsor of community events. The commission also discussed having a budget workshop at a time that aligns with the county's annual budget process.

Membership in the National Women's History Alliance: Lois Kirkpatrick reported that former commissioner Emily McCoy now serves on the NWHHA board and had invited the commission to become a partner organization. Lois Kirkpatrick noted that the partnership fee is \$100. Sabrina Rose-Smith made a motion for the commission to become a NWHHA partner. Pamela Montecinos seconded the motion. None opposed; none abstained. The motion passed unanimously.

Women in NAACP's Women's History Month Event: Phylicia Woods said that the women of the Fairfax NAACP group have asked the commission to help promote their March 30 Women's History Month event.

Main Motions

The commission's report, "The Economic Impact of COVID-19 on Women in Fairfax County," will be transmitted to the Board of Supervisors in March as a "not in packet" information item along with the "The Status of Women and Girls in Fairfax County" report. Alyssa Batchelor made a motion to include a note acknowledging to the board that while the commission's report is dated, its recommendations to the board remain valid. Sabrina Rose-Smith seconded the motion. None opposed. Amber Beichler, Liz Hernandez-Ramirez and Jordan Tautges abstained. The motion passed.

The commission was invited to become a partner of the National Women's History Alliance. Lois Kirkpatrick noted that the partnership fee is \$100. Sabrina Rose-Smith made a motion to approve the commission becoming a NWHHA partner. Pamela Montecinos 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 9:26 p.m.