April 10, 2017 Meeting Minutes

Call to Order
The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Hemenway at 7:17 p.m.

Attendance
Commissioners in attendance: Vice Chair Sondra Seba Hemenway, At-Large; Laura Sizemore, Student Representative; Mattie Palmore, Minority At-Large; Emily McCoy, Lee; Reena Desai, Hunter Mill; Nancy Hopkins, Dranesville and Elise Helgesen Aguilar, Providence.

Commissioners absent: Chair Cynthia Bhatnagar, Mason; Vice Chair Barbara Lippa, Sully; Katie McDaniel, Springfield; Charlie Brown, Braddock; Lisa Sales, Mount Vernon.

Staff in attendance: Yolanda Thompson, Gretchen Soto and Michelle Mueller.

I. Administrative

Introduction of Visitors
No visitors attended.

February 2017 Minutes
ACTION: Ms. McCoy moved to accept the February 2017 minutes. Ms. Sizemore seconded the motion. All Commissioners present voted to approve the motion, except Vice Chair Hemenway, who abstained.

Financial Report
Ms. Mueller reported that the financial report was not finalized because she needed to resolve some disparities with staff from finance.

Emails, Business Cards and Name Badges
Ms. Mueller reported that due to recordkeeping and FOIA requirements, Commissioners should choose between setting up personal email accounts dedicated to Commission business, or use a general Commission email that goes to staff, who can forward it to the correct Commissioner.

ACTION: Ms. Sizemore moved that a general Commission email address be used on the County website, and that Commissioners’ business cards could use either a general Commission email address or a personal address dedicated to Commission business, depending on the wishes of each Commissioner. Ms. McCoy seconded the motion.

Vice Chair Hemenway moved to amend the motion so that either the general email or the personal email could be used on the website, to be determined by each Commissioner. Ms. McCoy seconded the motion.
Both the amendment and the amended motion passed unanimously.

ACTION: Ms. Sizemore moved that the Commission spend up to $450 for business cards and name badges for the Commissioners. Ms. Hopkins seconded the motion.

Ms. McCoy moved to amend the motion to add “for any Commissioners who want them.” Ms. Sizemore accepted the amendment and the amended motion passed unanimously.

May 8 Meeting
Vice Chair Hemenway reported that Supervisor Hudgins would attend the May 8 Commission meeting, in conference room 8 of the Government Center. Ms. Desai reported that Supervisor Hudgins would discuss what the Commission could work on, and her priority issues.

II. Old Business

BACs Meeting Report and Budget Testimony
Vice Chair Hemenway testified to the Board of Supervisors regarding the County budget on behalf of the Commission on April 4. The testimony included the language that the human services BACs each agreed to include. Ms. Mueller provided copies of the testimony.

Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month Art Contest
Ms. Palmore reported that she, Ms. Brown and Ms. Mueller attended the Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month Art Contest reception. She reported that the art was excellent and the winners appreciated the prizes sponsored by the Commission.

Student Representative Selection Committee
Ms. Sizemore is graduating and a committee will be formed to select a new Student Representative.

NACW Annual Conference
Vice Chair Hemenway reported that the annual NACW conference will be held in Buffalo, New York in July. Commissioners previously approved funds to send three people to the conference. Vice Chair Hemenway stated that she would prefer not to attend.

ACTION: Ms. McCoy moved to send Vice Chair Lippa, Ms. Mueller and either Ms. Desai or Ms. Hopkins, depending on their schedules. Ms. Palmore seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Sexual Violence Walk
Ms. Mueller distributed the flyer for the Sexual Assault Awareness Month Walk on April 29, which the Commission sponsored. Ms. Mueller, Ms. Desai, Ms. Hopkins, Ms. Sales and Ms. Palmore reported that they would attend.

III. Standing Committees

Women’s History Month
Vice Chair Hemenway reported on the rescheduled Women’s History Month reception. The proclamation reception scheduled for March 14 was cancelled due to inclement weather. About 35 people, including six of the seven honorees, Chairman Bulova and Supervisor Hudgins, attended the evening reception.
Commissioners reviewed the other standing committees. Ms. Mueller agreed to send out the notes from the meeting at which the standing committees were created.

IV. Liaison Reports

Turning Point Suffragist Memorial
Ms. McCoy reported that TPSM would hold a dinner at the Westwood Country Club on June 11.

DVPPCC
Ms. McCoy explained that the DVPPCC is the domestic violence coordinating council of leaders from County government and the private sector. She noted that the council would meet on April 20.

V. Projects

Human Trafficking Policy Paper
Ms. Mueller reported that she had not yet completed the policy paper.

Commission Brochure
Ms. Mueller distributed copies of the updated Commission brochure.

ACTION: Ms. Palmore moved to spend up to $500 to print copies of the brochure. Ms. Hopkins seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Biennial Report
Ms. Mueller reported that the biennial report was not complete.

DV Beds and Mental Health
Ms. Desai reported that she and Ms. Mueller met on April 6, along with two student visitors. She distributed the notes from the meeting. She reported that three possible issues to work on were identified: the effects of domestic violence on children, suicide by domestic violence victims, and the relationship between domestic violence and homelessness.

Commissioners discussed the availability of mental health services and the need to destigmatize help-seeking. Commissioners asked that future committee meetings take place in the evening.

VI. Standing Reports

OFWDSVS
Ms. Soto and Ms. Thompson reported that OFWDSVS Director position would be advertised soon, and applications for the County-Wide Domestic Violence Coordinator position were being reviewed. They also reported on their meeting with Supervisor Storck to discuss what would be needed to open a domestic violence shelter in South County.

Community Reports
Vice Chair Hemenway reported that Ms. McCoy had received the Citizen of the Year Citation of Merit for her work on the Commission and other volunteer activities. She also reported that the
Shelter House breakfast was excellent and well-attended. She reported that the CWI would hold a session on Women in the Media on April 25 at 12-1:30 pm.

VII. New Business

GMU Women’s Studies Conference Tabling
Ms. Mueller stated that she would staff a table at the GMU Women’s Studies Conference on April 21 and advertise the Student Representative position.

Commissioner Volunteer Hours
Ms. Mueller distributed a board motion that called for Commissioners to report their volunteer hours for ninety days, to demonstrate the value of the time donated to the County. She reported that in the past, Commissioners had reported their volunteer hours to her monthly.

ACTION: Ms. Sizemore moved that Commissioners should track their volunteer hours and send them to Ms. Mueller once a month. Ms. Aguilar seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Rally Against Rape
Ms. Mueller reported that the Rally Against Rape, which the Commission has supported in the past, would be held in Rosslyn on April 27.

ACTION: Ms. Sizemore moved that the Commission be an official supporter of the Rally Against Rape. Ms. Palmore seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Meeting Adjourned
The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

Meeting Materials
April 2017 Meeting Agenda
February 2017 Meeting Minutes
Commission for Women Budget Testimony to the Board of Supervisors
Flyer for Stop the Silence Walk to End Sexual Violence
Notes from April 6, 2017 Meeting on Domestic Violence and Mental Health Project
Board Matter on Fiscal Benefits of Commissioner Volunteer Hours
Commission for Women Monthly District Report Form

Next Meeting
The Commission will next meet on May 8, 2017 at the Fairfax County Government Center, conference room 8, at 7:15 p.m.