



BALTIMORE COUNTY *Commission for Women*

March 17, 2022, Meeting Minutes

Meeting started 6:02 p.m.

Present: Alejandra Ivanovich, Audrey Potter, Carmen Christiana, Cherie Peay, Cheryl Brooks, Cylia Lowe-Smith, Helene Waranch, Ruth Howard, Jennifer Scott, Kara Beverly, Nitsa Zdziera, Sabrina Jones, Sharon Kehnemui, Sheila Derman, Teresa Messler, Yvette Hicks

Absent: Amy Blank, Brenda Savoy, Michelle Greer, Robin Harvey, Rosalyn Berkowitz, Zainab Chaudry

1. Meeting Minutes

The February minutes were approved as submitted.

2. Treasurer's Report

The balance for the month was \$4134.34, unchanged from the prior month.

3. President's Report

President Howard said she attended a Progressive Democrats online event to discuss the importance of commissions. She said several people on the call said they were interested in working on commissions.

The National Association for Commissions of Women is hosting it's a documentary on Rep. Barbara Lee on March 30 as part of its diversity and membership programming throughout the country. The goal is to have 300 people watch the film and participate in a discussion with the goal of reactivating defunct commissions.

4. Committee Reports

A. Women's Health – The March community baby shower was canceled because it was snowing. It has been rescheduled for May 14 in Randallstown. The next community baby shower is April 9.

B. Woman of the Year – An educator said that she wanted to submit a nomination for a student to be awarded Young Woman of the Year but she didn't because the student is nonbinary. She asked that that committee consider changing the award to Person of the Year. The discussion was tabled until next year when the committee begins planning the next awards cycle.

There were seven nominations for Woman of the Year and six for Young Woman of the Year. No one was nominated for the Woman Making a Difference award. The committee is meeting next month to weigh applications and determine winners.

C. Community Re-Entry

The resource guide was expanded to add Baltimore City resources. The introduction was written and ready and the committee is going to give the final draft back to the commission and take it to the Baltimore County Reentry Advisory Council for its review. Even though it is a living document, and this is a first edition, the committee will have to decide the frequency or revisions when new organizations request inclusion in the guide.

D. Women's Speakers Bureau

The summer speakers series will be held on the county Webex platform. The events are as follow:

Commissioner Lowe-Smith will hold a vision board session on May 28, 2022, 12-1pm as the next event in the speakers series.

On June 15, 2022, from 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m., Kalanit Cheers, a systems integrator and real estate developer and the founder of the Grave Loop, will speak about starting a small business.

On July 20, 2022, from 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m., Jill Peck, a clinical psychologist and former adjunct professor at Stevenson, will speak on working with women with trauma and anxiety and creating a work-life balance.

E. Procedures

The committee had no updates but the initial draft document updating the bylaws will be sent shortly for commissioners to review.

F Public Relations

The committee posted on social media about the community baby shower, which had the biggest share of traffic, followed by the announcement of the county executive's pilot program for grocery shuttles. The committee will run ads for the next baby shower and for the women's speakers series.

G. Public Policy

HB 270 and S91 both passed through the Maryland Assembly and Senate committees with amendments, and the committee is optimistic that they will be passed.

The Sexual Crimes bill known as Love is No Defense passed the Assembly 125-6 and unanimously in the Senate.

The Time to Care Act is among the more high-profile issues and is getting a lot of news coverage. The commission supports this bill.

The committee continues to meet weekly and is organizing one-on-one meetings with elected officials.

5. Old Business

Commissioner Ivanovich read a draft statement on the commission's position regarding violence by squeegee kids in the city. Commissioner Derman, who helped craft the statement, suggested that commissioners be given a chance to review the statement and motioned to accept it as a position statement. The commissioners discussed a sticking point relating to anecdotal evidence vs. statistical data and the dichotomy commissioners face by issuing a statement that does not have any action items and may not be supported by the county executive. Commissioners agreed that they don't want to alienate city officials or put the county executive in an untenable position. The motion was rejected.

6. Announcements

Commissioner Berkowitz was named one of Baltimore Magazine's "Best Nurses."

President Howard is resigning from the commission but will remain a member of NCAW. Election of the commission's officers will be held in June and the presidency will be vacant.

The commission voted 6-4 to have the next meeting in person. Despite the vote outcome, the commission will continue to meet online until all commissioners are comfortable about meeting in person again.

Adjournment 7:00 p.m.

Next meeting: April 21, 2022