



## BALTIMORE COUNTY *Commission for Women*

Minutes  
May 19, 2022  
6:00 P. M.

### **Call to Order 6:03pm**

Present: Alejandra Ivanovich, Amy Blank, Audrey Potter, Carmen Christiana, Cherie Peay, Jennifer Scott, Kara Beverly, Nitsa Zdziera, Robin Harvey, Ruth Howard, Sabrina Jones, Sharon Kehnemui, Sheila Derman, Teresa Messler, Yvette Hicks

Absent: Brenda Savoy, Cheryl Brooks, Cylia Lowe, Kara Beverly, Michelle Greer, Rosalyn Berkowitz, Zainab Chaudry

Guest: Caitlin Klimm-Kelner

### **1. Minutes**

The April 21, 2022, meeting minutes were passed as written.

### **2. Treasurer's Report**

The beginning balance was \$4099.79. \$48.74 was spent on Facebook advertising, \$100 on the National Association for Women Commission dues, and \$67.40 for the speaker gifts to the speaker at the Hour of Power Series on May 18, 2022. The ending balance was \$3883.58

### **3. President's Report**

President Howard said that the National Association for the Commission for Women's annual convention will be held in Reno, Nev., on July 24-28. President Howard will attend. Commissioners are eligible to attend and the commission will cover the cost of admission to the event.

President Howard introduced Caitlin Klimm-Kelner, who is running for the County Council in the 6<sup>th</sup> District. She is one of several candidates competing in the Democratic primary.

### **4. Committee Reports**

#### **A. Health**

Commissioner Jones said 31 people attended the third community baby shower. The commission distributed 26 Pack and Plays. The commissioner booth was empty because none of the commissioners attended. Because of that at the final shower, the commission only had juice boxes to give away and no brochures. President Howard suggested a vendor kit with updated brochures, signage, and business cards. The table cloth also needs to be cleaned for the June 13 Woman of the Year ceremony.

## **B. Woman of the Year**

Chairwoman Peay announced the winners and discussed the plans for the June 13 award ceremony. Gifts were ordered from Smyth Jewelers. The county executive will not be available to attend but the superintendent of the County Administrative Officer Stacy Rogers will fill in. The event will take place in the county council chambers. The budget was adjusted to fully fund the event based on a unanimous vote held online between commission meetings.

## **C. Community Reentry**

Chairwoman Peay said the county has approved the resource guide, which will be uploaded to the website, and given to the Baltimore County Detention Center and Reentry Advisory Council participants, which includes judges, members of the county health department, and groups represented in the resource guide.

## **D. Women's Speakers Series**

Chairwoman Scott said that Commissioner Lowe-Smith did a great job presenting at the first online event, which was on vision boarding. She said that she would like to repost the video on Facebook. She said only a few people attended and the program needs to be more broadly advertised. She said the next event on starting a small business will be Wednesday June 15, Kalanit Cheers, a software engineer and 2001 graduate of University of Pennsylvania, who founded the Green Group will be the speaker. The Green Group is focused on stabilizing women in the Baltimore area and developing creative income streams.

The last event will be in July and the topic will be creating a work-life balance. Dr. Jill Peek, a former adjunct professor at Stevenson University and a psychologist whose practice focuses on helping women suffering from trauma and anxiety, will be the speaker for that event.

## **E. Policies and Procedures**

Chairwoman Hicks said she sent out a document on policies and procedures but she only got feedback from one person and so will assume that there are no problems with the updated document. President Howard asked that the commissioners reply with any changes within seven days so that the commission can vote on the document at the June meeting.

## **F. Public Relations**

Chairwoman Kehnemui said that Facebook has 661 followers. She has developed congratulatory posts for the Women of the Year. She ran two ads for the speaker series and the baby shower but the speaker series ad had problems because the county's link to register did not work so it was paused for longer than planned. The ad for the baby shower had a reach of 3,597. She will run two more ads for the last two speaker series.

## **G. Public Policy Agenda**

The committee will hold a retreat on Monday, June 6. The group will discuss matters of importance to the commission on policies affecting women, but the matters don't have to be related to the General Assembly. They can focus on county activity. The retreat will also be a time to offer feedback on long-term strategic planning so that the commission can have a larger voice, both individually and collectively.

Commissioner Blank said she will sit on behalf of the commission at the Maryland Association of Women Commissioners to learn what other county groups are working on.

## **5. New Business**

### **A. Budget**

The commission voted on its annual budget for 2022-2023. The annual budget is \$5,000. Commissioners passed on voice vote the following spending plan:

MLAW membership - \$75

MLAW meeting registrations - \$200

NCAW membership – \$150

Women of the Year Awards - \$2350

Women's Health - \$100

Women's Conference - \$1,050

Domestic Violence – \$300

Public Policy \$575

Public Relations – \$200

Reentry - \$100

### **B. BCCW Brochures**

Commissioner Kehnemui is going to edit the brochure and submit it for printing before the end of the current fiscal year so that the budget can be expended before the next fiscal year.

### **C. Nominating Committee**

The Executive Board is up for election. The president is resigning. The vice president, secretary, treasurer, and parliamentarian can run two consecutive terms. The vice president, secretary, and parliamentarian are all term-limited. A five-person nominating committee is needed to review the nominees for the open positions. Commissioner Waranch will chair the committee. Commissioners Derman, Berkowitz, Kehnemui, and Howard agreed to serve on the committee. Applications will be requested and a slate set before the June meeting.

## **6. Announcements**

Commissioner Berkowitz was absent because she was being honored by Baltimore Magazine as one of the county's best nurses.

### **Adjournment: 7:01 p.m.**

Next Meeting-Thursday, June 16, 2022, 6:00 p.m. An unofficial poll of commissioners will be taken on whether to hold the June meeting in person.