

**Montgomery County Commission for Women
21 Maryland Avenue, Suite 330, Rockville, MD 20850**

Summary of Discussion

June 11, 2014

7:00 p.m.

Attending:

Chandra Walker Holloway, President
Linda Amendt
Natalia Farrar
Lorna Forde
Debra Bright Harris
Maliha Ilias
Farah Nageer-Kanthor
Nick Martinez
Barbara Mintz
Manar Morales
Katie Smith

Absent:

Karmen Rouland
Heather Reichardt
Safia Qadri

Staff:

Judith Vaughan-Prather, Executive Director

I. Call to Order/Approval of Agenda and Minutes.....President Walker-Holloway

The meeting was called to order at 7:15 p.m. First Vice-President Bright Harris moved to approve the agenda and Commissioner Martinez seconded. The agenda passed unanimously. Commissioner Morales moved to approve the May meeting minutes and Commissioner Mintz seconded. The minutes of the May meeting passed unanimously. The Commissioners thanked Executive Director Vaughan-Prather for the dinner.

II. Executive Committee ReportPresident Walker-Holloway

A. Human Trafficking Task Force Proposal.....Mintz

Commissioner Mintz represented the Commission at the press conference launching the Montgomery County Human Trafficking Task Force on June 5th. Also in attendance were Commissioner Forde, the Director of Courtney's House, the Montgomery County Police Chief, Councilman Craig Rice and Danielle Lohan from the Maryland Rescue and Restore Coalition, along with Executive Director Vaughan-Prather and Commissioner Lorna Forde. The Task Force will meet every third Thursday of the month at noon. The first meeting will be in June and there will no meeting in August. Meetings will resume in September. A public meeting is planned for September 10th from 7-9 pm to gather input from the public.

B. Vote on By-Laws revision

Commissioner Mintz moved to accept the By-Laws revisions as proposed and Commissioner Forde seconded. The revisions to the By-laws were approved unanimously.

C. Annual Planning Meeting

The Commission will hold its Annual Planning Meeting during the September Commission meeting. The next two Commission meetings remaining in the current year will be on July 10th and August 14th.

D. June 18 WOL Montgomery Mosaic Interview

President Walker-Holloway's last official task as the Commission President will be to give a 30 minute live broadcast interview on Montgomery Mosaic on June 18th. President Walker-Holloway encouraged Commissioners to advise her of any topics she should discuss during the interview.

III. Staff Report.....Executive Director Judith Vaughan-Prather

A. Updating CFW Publications

Most of the CFW brochures have been updated and translated in multiple languages. Every effort will be made to complete this extensive project before she leaves her position on June 20.

B. Annual Report

The FY 14 Annual Report is almost completed and should be uploaded on the CFW website very soon. The President's report is still pending. President Walker Holloway asked First Vice President Debra Bright Harris to write the report as the presumed incoming president for the coming year. As soon as that is appended to the Annual Report, the document will be posted online.

C. Women's History Archives

Executive Director Judith Vaughan-Prather has had her interns updating the 43 biographies posted on the CFW's website as its Montgomery County Women's History Archives, to include more active links, etc. In addition, she has completely re-written and updated the introduction section. This project should be complete before June 20.

D. Staffing Transitions

The Executive Director is doing all she can to ensure that the pending transition is as smooth as possible. Her last official day is June 20th. During the budget work sessions, the Montgomery County Council Government Operations Committee asked that the counseling center services not be outsourced until it has further conversation on this matter. However, since the social worker positions were temporary and positions were not made permanent, the counselors have terminated their employment with the CFW and at present the counseling services have been suspended. When a new Executive Director is onboard, that topic must be revisited and a decision made as to how to provide the counseling service. \$140,000 was appropriated in the FY 15 budget for this purpose.

IV. Committee reports

A. Policy and Legislation Committee.....Smith

There were no updates to report.

B. Women’s Legislative Briefing 2015

The date for the Briefing has been set as January 25th 2015. The planning meeting dates have also been established, and 7 p.m. meeting space reserved at the White Oak Community Recreation Center:

- September 4, 2014
- October 2
- November 6
- December 4
- January 15, 2015 and
- February 19

The location of the Briefing will be the same as previous years: the Universities at Shady Grove. This will be the Briefing’s 35th Anniversary. Much work has been done to streamline and improve the registration process for co-sponsors for this year. The 2015 co-sponsors will be able to register as a co-sponsor, exhibitor, and participant in the Presidents Networking Session, as well as submit their organization’s Networking Directory information all on the same form and all at once. In addition, the supporting sponsors (major donors) forms and levels have been updated.

V. Liaison Reports

A. MLAW.....Smith

No updates were reported.

B. Teen Dating Violence/Choose Respect Conference.....Forde

There was no report on this.

VI. Unfinished Business

A. New Commissioner Recruitment.....Martinez

A committee including Commissioners Martinez, Forde and Walker Holloway, along with Executive Director Vaughan-Prather interviewed eight candidates for the four positions becoming available this year. It was an excellent pool of candidates and the choice of whom to recommend was difficult. The committee recommendations have been sent to the County Executive. These recommendations are confidential between the interview committee and the Executive’s office. Commissioner Morales recommended that, in the future, the Commission should discuss the skills that are important to the Commission and target recruitment towards those skills.

B. Social Media Strategy

This item will be discussed at the annual planning meeting.

VII. New Business

No new business was brought before the Commission.

VIII. Election of Presidents and Officers.....President Walker Holloway

Commissioner Bright-Harris was the only nominee for the office of President. After a brief speech by the candidate, Commissioner Bright-Harris was elected by acclamation as the President of the Montgomery County Commission for Women. There were three candidates for the position of First Vice-President. After brief speeches by the candidates, the voting by secret ballot commenced and Commissioner Forde was elected as the Commission’s First Vice President. There were two candidates for the position of Second Vice-President. After brief speeches by the candidates, the voting commenced by secret ballot and Commissioner Reichardt was elected as the Commission’s Second Vice President. Commissioners extended their congratulations to all the newly-elected officers.

IX. Farewell to Commissioners Completing their Terms

Commissioners Morales and Ilias as well as President Walker Holloway have completed their terms on the Commission. All three were presented with certificates of appreciation from the County Executive commemorating their contributions during their time with the Commission. Executive Director Judith Vaughan-Prather is also retiring from her position at Montgomery County and will be starting as the Executive Director of the Maryland Commission for Women. The Commission thanked Executive Director Judith Vaughan-Prather for her tireless efforts for the Commission as well as her mentorship, guidance and kindness. She will be thoroughly missed. Given her new position as a member of both commissions, Commissioner Forde will serve as the liaison between the Montgomery County Commission for Women and the Maryland Commission for Women.

X. Announcements

There were no announcements.

XI. Adjournment

The Meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Minutes Submitted by
Maliha Ilias
Commissioner/Second Vice President