**Montgomery County Commission for Women**

**Monthly Meeting March 10, 2022**

Attendance

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Attending** | **Not Attending** | **Guests** |
| Donna Rojas – Chair  Patricia Maclay – 1st Vice Chair  Tonia Bui – 2nd Vice Chair  Isabel Argoti – Secretary  Chai Shenoy  Ijeoma Enendu  Arlinda Clark  Janet Lavalle  Jan Molino  Betty Romero  Angela Whitehead Quigley  **Staff**  Jodi Finkelstein | Diana Rubin  Nicole Drew  Tondalayo Royster |  |

**MEETING MINUTES**

March 10, 2022

**I.       WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**  **Chair Rojas**

* Meeting called to order at 7:01 p.m.
* Chair Rojas reminds the commission that each agenda item will have 10 minutes for discussion and each person will have 2 minutes.

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND AGENDA Chair Rojas**

* Commissioner Molino adds the SPRE Strategic Planning session under New Business.
* March 2022 Agenda with amendment is approved anonymously. No opposed.
* February 2022 Minutes are approved anonymously. No opposed.

**III.       EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT Chair Rojas**

* Meeting with Councilmember Andrew Friedson
  + The Executive Committee met with Councilmember Friendson about paid family leave for Montgomery County Employees and private lactation areas in county buildings. This was a preliminary conversation on these issues and how to address them.
* Women’s History Month Proclamation
  + This was held on March 1 by Councilmember Navarro who acknowledged young girls that did a neat fire science training.
  + They also placed emphasis on how there are less women running for office. Commissioner Rojas posed the question as to why not enough women run for office.
  + Commissioner Rubin shared that most men are able to call into stronger networks and are more comfortable raising money. Commissioner Bui agrees that asking for money can be viewed as a relationship breaker and often ites, the worth of a woman can be seen as less.
  + Commissioner Molino shares that women do not always have networks of influence and power.
  + Commissioner Clark agrees and also that once they do have their networks, those networks are often already committed once women tapped into them.
  + Commissioner Romero asks if the Commission for Women has done previous programs on empowering women to run for office. Commissioner Rojas shares that our WLB is the biggest way to bring attention to Women in Leadership.
  + Commissioner Clark agrees that this is an ongoing issue and perhaps we hone in on women pursuing office at the next WLB. Commissioner Molino agrees and
  + Commissioner Rubin pointed out other resources like Emily’s List and Leadership Montgomery. We have also done a session with She Should Run and there are various resources we could tap into.
  + Excecuive Director FIneklstoen also noted that this issue was highlighted in our status of women report and it was one of the recommendations. There are also numerous organizations in the county that support and train female candidates
* Bethesda Magazine interview
* Women and Gender Studies Program --presentation
  + Chair Rojas

**IV. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT Executive Director Finkelstein**

* No report.

**V.        COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**a. Program Planning Commissioner Enendu**

* Thank you to Commissioners Molino, Clark, Argoti, Maclay for helping review submissions! Women’s Herstory campaign has been revealed with highlighted women and is currently rolling out. Suggestions and ongoing interest have already been expressed.
* A panel discussion will be held March 24 on Zoom.
* Commissioner Maclay gave kudos to Commissioner Enendu for all her great leadership in this campaign!

**f. Public Relations Commissioner Argoti**

* x

**g. WLB Commissioner Maclay and Argoti**

* It happened! Thank you for everyone’s support. In total, we had 551 attendees and168 responded to the survey.
* The Chair’s Networking Reception will be held on April 28, 2022 at 4-5:30 p.m. on Zoom.
* Commissioner Rojas asks, how can we get survey responses up? Commissioner Clark suggested we create an incentive like a raffle or other giveaway. Commissioner Argoti expressed that we have county limitations around giveaways and raffles. Commissioner Clark suggests we get creative and think about it sooner rather than later to ensure we get responses.

**VI.       LIAISON REPORTS**

**e. Choose Respect Commissioner Whitehead Quigley**

* This will be held on Sunday, March 27 from 1-4 pm at Wheaton Community Center. We have committed to hosting a table. Commissioner Whitehead Quigley is asking for volunteers to help at this event.

**VII.    AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORT(S)**

**a. Social Committee Commissioner Enendu**

* We will be meeting at the Olney Winery and this will also serve as an opportunity to pick up your shirts! Please share your size with Jodi if you plan on picking up.
* We are volunteering at Up2Us Foundation at 9:30am at Wheaton Mall. Please reach out to Commissioner Enendu for an details and confirm attendance.

**IX. OLD BUSINESS -** NONE

**X. NEW BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**a. SPRE Strategic Planning Commissioner Molino**

* Commissioner Molino refers to an email sent prior to the meeting about hosting a Strategic Planning Session among all commissioners off-site. The idea would be to reevaluate our priorities as many have shifted through the pandemic and we have many new commissioners. Ideally, this will be on the weekend and hosted by an external facilitator. They want to ensure that the 3 commissioners leaving are included before their terms end.
* The committee would like to put this up for a vote at our April meeting with proposed May dates: Saturday, May 21 or Sunday May 22.
* Commissioner Romero emphasizes that we are losing commissioners like Commissioner Whitehead Quigley who has done amazing work with Emerging Leaders and should
* Commissioner Rubin expresses that former Commissioner Hauve would be asked to serve as a facilitator and she is familiar with our work. The committee is also open to other facilitators.
* Commissioner Royster expressed that the email sent before the event was very informative and as a newer commissioner, this opportunity to learn from more seasoned commissioners would be really helpful.
* Executive Director Finkelstein shares that the Recreation Department is looking for volunteers to help with their Prom Dress Distribution on Saturday, April 16. She will send an email with all details and also encourages the commission to participate as this is an initiative for young women. Consider this date when planning the strategic planning session.

**XI.      Adjourn**

Commissioner Royster shares empowering and encouraging words to close out our meeting. She encourages commissioners to take an intentional rest!

Meeting adjourned at 7:58 p.m.