

MONTGOMERY COUNTY COMMISSION FOR WOMEN

401 North Washington Street, Suite 100
Rockville, Maryland 20850

MEETING MINUTES

May 27, 2009

7:18 p.m.

ATTENDING

Leila Aridi Afas
Vanessa E. Atterbeary
Jennifer Cryor Baldwin
Wilma K. Holmes
Resa Levy
Jaclyn R. Lichter
Ivonne C. Lindley
Larniece McKoy Moore
Tedi S. Osias
Reggie L. Oldak
Jocelyn Samuels

STAFF

Leah Goldfine
Ruby V. Marcelo
Paula S. Rodgers
Judith Vaughan-Prather

ABSENT

Jane Hobdy
Chandra Walker Holloway
Manar S. Morales
Sanjay Rai

GUESTS

Selena Mendy Singleton, District Director
for Congresswoman Edwards
I. Kinya Mururu, Constituent Services Rep
for Congresswoman Edwards

I. CALL TO ORDER/APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES.....1st Vice President Lichter

The meeting was called to order at 7:18 p.m. by 1st Vice President Lichter who noted that the delayed start was due to the lack of a quorum at 7:00 p.m. She recognized two guests in attendance at the meeting: Selena Mendy Singleton, District Director for Congresswoman Donna Edwards and Keenya Mururo, in charge of Constituent Services for Congresswoman Edwards. Upon the motion made by Commissioner Lindley and seconded by Commissioner Atterbeary, the agenda with additions was approved unanimously.

Upon the motion made by Commissioner Aridi Afas, seconded by Commissioner Levy, the Minutes of April 22, 2009 were approved with an amendment on page 3 and a correction noted by Administrative Specialist Rodgers.

Ms. Singleton announced that on June 18, 2009, Congresswoman Edwards will host a community forum on the 2010 Census. Constituents of the 4th Congressional District are invited to discuss how the census will affect community issues and planning decisions.

(President Oldak arrived at 7:26 p.m. and presided over the remainder of the meeting)

II. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORTPresident Oldak

A. Commission Appointments

It is expected that the County Executive will make his appointment public on June 18. Council confirmation is scheduled for June 30 and the new commissioner will attend the CFW's July 22 meeting.

B. Commission Attendance Requirements

The rules of attendance, as defined in Montgomery County Code state that if a member of a board, commission or committee misses more than three meetings in a 12-month period or three consecutive meetings, that member has resigned.

President Oldak asked that commissioners keep this rule in mind. In addition, she reminded commissioners that calling in to a meeting is not considered as attending a meeting and while County law is silent on this issue, the County Attorney has discouraged this practice.

C. Hospital at Montgomery College

The CFW has been informed that Holy Cross Hospital has entered into a cooperative agreement with Montgomery College to build a hospital facility on the Germantown Campus. College faculty may be employed in the hospital and college student nurses would do their rotations at the Hospital.

Concern has been expressed by some in the community that Holy Cross, as a Catholic hospital, would not provide the full range of reproductive healthcare services for women who need them, nor the relevant education and training to the nursing students.

The MCCFW is keeping abreast of the issue because the CFW, as part of its core principles, is concerned that women have access to all the health services they need and that nurses should have training in the full panoply of services they may be called upon to provide.

Commissioner Samuels moved that a CFW ad-hoc committee be formed to draft a letter of inquiry to Brian Johnson, President of Montgomery College. Executive Director Vaughan-Prather was asked to find out whether the County Executive has taken a position on the issue.

Commissioner McKoy Moore expressed some reservation about the CFW's involvement in the issue. Commissioner Atterbeary expressed her comfort with inquiries being made by the committee; however, she noted that individuals should not present themselves as representing the views of the Commission.

The motion to form a CFW ad-hoc committee was seconded by Commissioner Cryor Baldwin and unanimously approved. Commissioners Atterbeary, Cryor Baldwin, Lichter, McKoy Moore, and Samuels agreed to serve on the committee.

D. Jane E. Lawton Park

A renaming ceremony of the Leland Community Recreation Center in honor of the late Jane E. Lawton will take place on June 14, 2009. Jane Lawton was a Maryland State Delegate in Montgomery County's District 18 and a tireless advocate for women. She passed away suddenly on November 29, 2007. President Oldak will attend the ceremony representing the MCCFW.

E. Bylaws Review

Some parts of the Commission's Bylaws need technical updating. Executive Director Vaughan-Prather and Legislative/Budget Specialist Marcelo will review them and draft proposed language for the commissioners' consideration for the September CFW meeting. Any proposed revisions may be voted on at the November CFW meeting.

F. MLAW Membership and Board of Directors

It is time to renew CFW's membership with the Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women. Commissioner Atterbeary moved that CFW renew its membership for the 2009-10 year. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Aridi Afas and unanimously approved. Staff will process the membership renewal form.

Commissioner Lichter has offered to continue her role as liaison to MLAW Board of Directors for now. This may change if another commissioner is appointed at the August CFW planning meeting. Commissioner Atterbeary also expressed an interest in representing CFW on the Board. Nomination forms will be submitted to MLAW on behalf of both commissioners Atterbeary and Lichter.

G. Clearinghouse on Women's Issues (CWI) – Speaker Request

The Clearinghouse on Women's Issues is inviting member organizations to showcase and present a brief talk about their organizations at the Clearinghouse's June 23, 2009 meeting. President Oldak will speak at the event on behalf of the CFW.

H. County Council Election

Nancy Navarro was elected to the County Council District 4 seat and she is now the first Latina ever to serve on the County Council. A letter of congratulations will be sent from the CFW. A swearing-in ceremony will held at the Council Office Building on June 3, 2009.

III. MAP COMMITTEE REPORT PRESENTATIONOsias

Using PowerPoint, Commissioner Osias gave a presentation of the draft “Single Mothers and Poverty Agenda for Action” so that the commissioners could preview and comment on the report prior to its introduction to the public on June 10, 2009. The MAP Committee will be presenting the Agenda to County Executive Leggett on June 4 and to the County Council after the June 10 event.

IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. CFW Presidential Election

Intent to Run for CFW President forms were received from Commissioners Aridi Afas and Lichter and in accordance with the CFW Bylaws, additional nominations may be made from the floor at the June meeting. The election of a new CFW President for 2009-10 will take place at the June 24, 2009 CFW meeting.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. Washington Freedom Request

The Washington Freedom Soccer Team is hosting the “First Annual Washington Freedom Women’s Networking Night” on August 8, 2009 from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. at the Maryland SoccerPlex. The organization invited the CFW to provide a speaker for the event. Commissioners Aridi Afas agreed to speak and Commissioner Atterbeary said that she also plans to attend.

Executive Director Vaughan-Prather will request that CFW’s name be included on the publicity for the event so that the invitation may be shared with CFW’s constituency.

B. Executive Director Vaughan-Prather announced that Program Specialist Leah Goldfine’s last day with the CFW will be June 19, 2009. Commissioner Samuels moved to extend special appreciation to Ms. Goldfine for her wonderful services provided to the Commission for Women. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Osias and unanimously approved. The commissioners asked that a special certificate of appreciation that all the commissioners can sign be prepared for Ms. Goldfine.

Due to the late hour, a decision was made by President Oldak to defer the remaining agenda topics to the Commission's June 24, 2009 meeting.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 p.m.

**Minutes Submitted By
Paula S. Rodgers
Montgomery County Commission for Women**