

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

Summary of Discussion

September 12, 2013

6:00 p.m.

Attending:

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

Safia Qadri
Karmen Rouland
Katie Smith

Staff:

Judith Vaughan-Prather,
Executive Director

Guest:

Heather Reichardt

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

The meeting was called to order at 6:09 p.m. The agenda for this evening’s meeting as well as the August meeting minutes were adopted as presented. President Holloway Walker thanked Commissioner Alvarado for so generously hosting dinner for the commissioners this evening.

II. Business Meeting..... President Walker Holloway

A. Introductions

Newly appointed Commissioner Heather Reichardt was introduced. Her appointment by the County Executive was made on September 11 and is scheduled for confirmation by the County Council on October 1, so she is attending tonight’s meeting as a guest but soon-to-be official commissioner. All those in attendance introduced themselves to one another.

B. Meeting Times and Structures

President Holloway Walker reminded all Commissioners that meetings start promptly at 7 p.m. and should be expected to run until 9 p.m. on the second Thursday of every month.

C. The Power Conference

President Holloway Walker, Commissioner Smith and Executive Director Vaughan-Prather attended the Conference and spoke highly of the presentations and speakers. President Holloway Walker reported that the keynote speaker, Majora Carter, President, was very impressive in her discussion of “Transforming Communities from the Inside Out.”

Ms. Carter is president of The Majora Carter Group, and is an Eco-Entrepreneur, Internationally recognized urban revitalization strategy consultant, Founder of Sustainable South Bronx, Peabody Award Winning Radio Broadcaster, MacArthur “Genius” Fellow, and Groundbreaking TEDTalk presenter. Her very compelling keynote address discussed strategies for tackling difficult issues and problems, making special mention of a program she designed in New York City that is training youth for green careers such as landscaping whiled addressing severe urban blight.

D. Meeting with County Executive

President Walker Holloway has been in communication with the secretary of County Executive Leggett in order to schedule a meeting with him in September. Commissioners will be informed when the meeting is scheduled and Commissioners will be encouraged to attend.

E. Request from Peerless Rockville Historic Preservation Society

The Rockville Historic Preservation Society has asked the MCCFW to support a movement to oppose the scheduled demolition of the building at 255 N. Washington Street in Rockville, which once housed the office of Vivian Simpson. Ms. Simpson was the first female attorney in Montgomery County, the first female president of the Montgomery County Bar Association and the first female Secretary of State for Maryland. The MCCFW also had its offices in this building at one time. After much discussion, the Commission decided that this is an issue for the City of Rockville. The MCCFW has no legislative authority to advise the city, and it has neither the mandate nor the expertise to advise on the preservation of historic spaces. Commissioner Morales moved that the Commission take no position on the campaign to save the building. Commissioner Qadri seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

F. 2014 Women’s Legislative Briefing

The MCCFW’s 2014 WLB is scheduled for January 26th at the Universities at Shady Grove in Rockville. Planning meetings take place at 7 pm on the first Thursday of each month at the White Oak Community Recreation Center in Silver Spring. The first meeting was attended by Commissioners Amendt, Forde, Rouland and Qadri along with Committee Chair Bright-Harris and President Walker Holloway, and was well-attended by representatives of co-sponsoring organizations. A new track has been added this year for “teen and tween” girls. There is a lot of excitement surrounding this new addition and a sub-committee has been established that the Commission will be leading. There was also considerable enthusiasm about this year’s keynote speaker: Joanne Bamberger, author of *“Mothers of Intention: How Women and Social Media Are Revolutionizing Politics in America”*.

G. Annual Report

The Annual Report is complete and will be available very soon.

H. Staff Schedule

Executive Director Vaughan-Prather reminded the Commission of her travelling schedule for the fall. She will be visiting China as part of the Montgomery County Sister City project September 15-23. She is scheduled to visit Izmir in Bornova, Turkey November 3 – 10 for discussions on strategies for local governments to address women’s issues in their communities.

III. ANNUAL PLANNING MEETING..... President Walker Holloway

A. Orientation to Planning Process

President Walker Holloway led the Commission’s Annual Planning Meeting by introducing processes and guidelines.

She asked the commissioners to identify specific issues for which they have a passionate concern. These included:

- Work-life balance, need for a safety net
- Human trafficking
- Help for working mothers, especially single mothers
- Risks facing teens and young women
- Equity for women in the workplace and education
- Economic empowerment of women
- Stress in women’s lives

B. Consideration of Current Commitments:

President Walker Holloway asked the committee and project chairs to review their activities during the past year and the current commitments for the coming year, including the Women’s Legislative Briefing, the update of the CFW’s handbook for surviving the legal process of separation and divorce and its four other workplace-related brochures in multiple languages, the Program Planning and Design committee, the legal workshops and the Policy and Legislation committee.

C. Consideration of Policy Priorities for Advocacy in FY 14

After much discussion and brainstorming, the CFW adopted the following to guide its advocacy activities for the coming year:

FY 14 CFW ADVOCACY POLICY PRIORITIES

Economic Empowerment for Women and Families

Paid leave, workplace flexibility, health care, retirement and other benefits, minimum wage, child care

Health and Safety for Women and Girls

Domestic Violence, human trafficking, women’s health disparities, wellness, risks facing teens

Unique Challenges Facing Women

Senior women, immigrant women, single mothers, young women and girls

Women in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM)

Educational, vocational and cultural challenges

Fairness in Family Law

Legislative issues, access to information, representation and services

D. CFW Capacity for Initiatives and Projects

After discussion of its resources and commitments, the commission decided that it has the capacity for two “major initiatives” this year.

E. Priorities and Initiatives for FY 14

The Commission set as its two “major initiatives” for this year:

- **Policy and Legislation Committee**

- Katie Smith, Chair
- Bobbe Mintz, Co-Chair
 - Montse Alvarado
 - Heather Reichardt
 - Karmen Rouland
 - Maliha Ilias
 - Natalia Farrar
 - Safia Qadri
 - Lorna Forde
 - Chandra Walker Holloway

- **2014 Women’s Legislative Briefing Planning Committee**

- Debra Bright Harris, Chair
 - Montse Alvarado – Teen Track Leadership
 - Nick Martinez
 - Safia Qadri
 - Karmen Rouland
 - Manar Morales – Keynote Speaker Liaison
 - Linda Amendt
 - Lorna Forde
 - Farah Nageer-Kanthor
 - Chandra Walker Holloway – Presidents’ Networking Session

- **Liaison Relationships**

The CFW reviewed the list of organizations with which it has formal “liaison” relationships and decided on the following list for FY 14:

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|--|--------------------------------|
| • Domestic Violence Coordinating Council | Bobbe Mintz |
| • Divorce Roundtable | Jamila Allouane (staff) |
| • Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women | Katie Smith |
| • National Association of CFWs | Judith Vaughan-Prather (staff) |
| • Family Justice Center | Chandra Walker Holloway |
| • Subcabinet on Senior Issues | Judith Vaughan-Prather (staff) |
| • Teen Dating and Violence Prevention TF | Lorna Forde |

E. Meeting Host Schedule for FY 14

The commissioners individually selected meeting dates for which they volunteered to “host” a light supper:

September 12, 2013	-	Manar Morales
October 10	-	Chandra Walker Holloway
November 14	-	Bobbe Mintz
December	-	No Meeting
January 9, 2014	-	Farah Nageer-Kanthor
February 13	-	Safia Qadri
March 13	-	Nick Martinez
April 10	-	Maliha Ilias
May 8	-	Karmen Rouland
June 12	-	Montse Alvarado
July 10	-	Katie Smith
August 14	-	Linda Amendt

IV. Announcements

- A. President Walker Holloway attended the September 7th forum on Human Trafficking sponsored by the AKA Sorority. The information presented was very compelling.
- B. Commissioner Rouland volunteered to coordinate the Commission’s project for Community Service Week (October 20 – 26) and will look for a project related to Human Trafficking.

V. Adjournment

The Meeting was adjourned at 9:17 p.m.

Minutes Submitted by Maliha Ilias
Commissioner