

Montgomery County Commission for Women

21 Maryland Avenue, Suite 330

Summary of Discussion

October 9, 2014
7:00pm

Attending:

Linda Amendt
Debra Bright Harris, President
Daphnee Cherubin
Natalia Farrar
Lorna Forde
Beatrice Lauman
Guilia McPherson
Barbara Mintz
Farah Nageer-Kanthor
Safia Qadri
Heather Reichardt
Karmen Rouland
Katie Smith
Angela Whitehead Quigley

Absent:

Nick Martinez

Staff:

Chickona Royster-Edwards

- I. CALL TO ORDER..... President Bright Harris**
- A. The meeting was called to order by President Bright Harris at 7:07 pm. Many thanks to Commissioner Qadri for providing a delicious meal for the evening. The motion to approve the meeting agenda was made by Commissioner Rouland and seconded by Commissioner Naeer-Kanthor. Motion was unanimously approved. The motion to approve the September meeting minutes was made by Commissioner Amendt and seconded by Commissioner Smith. Motion unanimously carried.
 - B. Unfortunately County Executive Isiah Leggett was not able to attend the October meeting as planned. He will reschedule a visit to a future Commission meeting.
- II. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT..... President Bright Harris**
- A. President Bright Harris testified before the County Council on Tuesday, October 7 in support of the emergency Bill 46-14 that would modify the structure of the Executive Director of the Commission for Women from a county merit associate to an appointed position. The Executive's staff member, Fariba Kassiri, also testified in support of the bill. Delegate Ariana Kelly opposed the bill at the hearing saying she wanted to maintain merit position to allow for sustained support to continue the Commission's work. The bill will be forwarded to the Government Operations Committee of the County Council for further consideration.
 - B. Commissioners discussed some pros and cons of continuing to support the bill. Commissioner Amendt will reach out to Councilman Leventhal to gauge his position. Another one of the Executive's staff told Commissioner Mintz that the office would like a list of possible candidates for the Executive Director position. The Commissioners will need to think about any qualified candidates among their contact lists. Information that needs to be provided includes benefits and compensation information for the new position. Commissioners need to bring names to the next meeting of those who might be a good fit for the Executive Director position.

- C. The Maryland Commission for Women has invited leaders of the 16 county Commissions for Women to a Roundtable Conference Friday Nov 7. President Bright Harris is planning to attend. First Vice President Forde will attend in her capacity as a member of the Maryland Commission for Women. Second Vice President Reichardt will be an alternate if President Bright Harris cannot attend. This is the first meeting of its kind to broaden the reach of the Maryland Commission for Women to improve lives of women and girls in the state.
- D. Rockville Human Rights Commission – President Bright Harris met with this group to update them on our work. They are excited about the Teen Track sessions planned for the Womens Legislative Briefing. They work with three high schools in Rockville to educate students. They will promote the WLB and they would like to provide candidates for the STEM scholarship that is in progress from the Commission. They also have an Martin Luther King Day celebration and would like to have a commissioner on their planning committee. Someone from the Housing Opportunities Commission also spoke to the Rockville Human Rights Commission. They may be a good speaker at a future Commission for Women meeting.
- E. The Executive Committee report ended with no additional questions for President Bright Harris or the executive team.

III. STAFF REPORT..... Royster-Edwards

- A. Staff Support Royster-Edwards attended the Boards, Commissions and Councils (BCCs) staff meeting. All commissioners are required to take Ethics Training. The session will be scheduled in late November or early December. Ms. Royster-Edwards will try to determine if those commissioners who already took the training will have to take it again.
- B. Ms. Royster-Edwards reminded commissioners that they need to submit reimbursement within the year of service for which they are seeing reimbursement of either transportation or child-care expenses.

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Policy and Legislation.....**Rouland**
 - a. Commissioner Rouland and her committee have had a phone conference about the pay equity hearing, however there are not enough details to provide further information. President Bright Harris will check with the County Executive’s office regarding the status of that issue.
 - b. Commissioner Rouland noted that on Oct 1 several bills became effective in Maryland that had been supported in the most recent legislative session including those on domestic violence in the presence of a minor, transgender anti-discrimination and the minimum wage bill, among others.
- B. Human Trafficking Task Force**Mintz**
 - a. Commissioner Mintz attended an area-wide conference at the National Harbor Gaylord hotel earlier in the day. There were task force representatives from many other jurisdictions. Most were paid professionals. Commissioner Mintz is a volunteer. She learned what is being done in other jurisdictions and a vice squad policeman talked about the impact of internet prostitution where women and children are the main victims.
 - b. The next meeting of the Task Force is Thurs, Oct 16 in the Rockville Library, 2nd floor.
 - c. Commissioner Mintz mentioned that the group helping with the Task Force is excellent and hardworking.
- C. CFW STEM Scholarship.....**Lauman**
 - a. Commissioner Lauman reported that her committee will meet by phone to work out options for the scholarship and answer questions posed by Montgomery College. Additionally, decisions regarding the fundraising and disbursement of the scholarship must be made.

- b. The committee will look at the option of having a "Friends of the Commission" organization similar to the Maryland state Commission for Women that could assist with fundraising. Staff Assistant Royster Edwards will review the files for records on existing funds to seed the scholarship and historical information on possible past scholarship efforts.
- D. WLB –Forde/Smith
 - a. Planning committee had its first meeting on 10/2 with 28 attendees. The agreed-upon theme is "build the world you want through advocacy and legislation." With the upcoming conference being the 35th anniversary, the color scheme was decided to be coral and blue (this will be incorporated into Commissioners clothing on the day of the Briefing).
 - b. As part of the anniversary recognition, we will ask past commissioners to contribute \$35 to briefing and scholarship and recognize all previous commissioners in attendance.
 - c. The fees were agreed to be \$20 pre-register, \$25 at the door and \$15 discounted admission for sponsors. Additional sponsorship levels were put in place to access a larger variety of sponsoring organizations.
 - d. The workshop/seminar topics will be similar in focus to the prior year's topics, but there will be changes in titles. The committee is still deciding on which movie to show to adults and teens. As well, the keynote speaker has yet to be finalized.
 - e. We need all commissioners to sign up as a liaison for one of the WLB committees in order to facilitate coordination with the chairs.
- E. (Teen/Tween Track)Whitehead-Quigley/ McPherson
 - a. The planning for the Teen Track is going well. The committee chairs attended several different pre-meetings that included reps from the Jack & Jill organization. The current plan is to have two panel discussions: one for the big picture issue discussion and then breakout into smaller groups for hands-on workshops.

V. LIAISON REPORTS

- A. MLAW.....Cherubin
 - a. The Commission's sponsorship for the MLAW Conference would include one ticket. Advanced tickets are \$35 and at the door admission for the Nov 15 conference is \$45.
 - b. Commissioners Cherubin and Smith are on the subcommittee for youth outreach and will be talking to MC and other universities with Womens Studies departments to raise awareness of MLAW to encourage younger participants.
- B. Teen Dating & Violence TaskforceQuadri
 - a. Commissioner Quadri said no meetings are scheduled until November.

8:10 VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS.....Harris

8:20 VII. NEW BUSINESS.....Various

- C. WLB – Staff Liaison (Commissioner) – already discussed above
- D. Proposed Regional NACW meetings.....Reichardt
 - a. Representatives from Region 3 of the National Association of Commissions for Women are kicking off a preliminary regional meeting in Philadelphia on Friday, Nov 14. Commissioners Quadri and Smith have expressed interest in attending. Information will be forwarded to them to register.
- E. MLAW Conference Sponsorship.....Cherubin
 - a. Commissioner Cherubin motioned for the Commission to sponsor the upcoming MLAS Conference with a \$100 donation (includes a ¼ advertisement). Commissioner Mintz seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously. The funds will come from the Commission budget.

F. Program planning – scheduling?.....Bright Harris

- a. All commissioners agree that the seminars and informational efforts of the Commission are very important to further advance the lives of women and girls in the community. However, it was agreed that without an Executive Director on board, planning these events will be tabled until later in the calendar year or shortly after the WLB

IX. ANNOUNCEMENTS/Notes.....Bright Harris

- A. Discussion on how to respond to future requests for sponsorship or support from other organizations is tabled.
- B. Commission will re-invite County Executive Leggett to a future meeting, perhaps the December meeting, if it is planned.

X. ADJOURNMENT..... President Bright Harris

- A. Commissioner McPherson motioned for adjournment. Commissioner Forde seconded. All approved. Meeting adjourned at 8:44pm.