**Montgomery County Commission for Women**

Thursday,October 8, 2020

7:00 P.M. ---On-line meeting via Zoom

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Attending** | **Not Attending** | **Guests** |
| Nicole Drew - President  Donna Rojas - 1st Vice President  Diana Rubin - 2nd Vice President  Tiffany Boiman - Recording Secretary  Tazeen Ahmad  Isabel Argoti  Mona-Lee Belizaire  Tonia Bui  Arlinda Clark  Ijeoma Enendu  Patti Maclay  Angela Whitehead Quigley  Diana Rubin  Tricia Swanson  Meredith Weisel  **Staff**  Jodi Finkelstein  **Intern**  Rose Allen | Chai Shenoy | Tondalayo Royster |

**MINUTES**

**I.         WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**  (Guests should introduce themselves)

* The meeting called order at 7:01 pm.
* Individual commissioners introduced themselves to Commissioner Clark.

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND AGENDA Commissioner Drew**

* Commissioner Clark should be added as a guest to the September meeting.
* Commissioner Maclay moved a motion to approve minutes and agenda; Commissioner Swanson seconded.

**III.        EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT Commissioner Drew**

1. Listening Tour Update:

* President Drew explained that the dates have moved a bit and CFW has a commitment from Concilmember Katz.
* The sessions will take place the weeks of November 9th and 16th and be organized geographically by region (up county, etc.).
* The goal is to understand how the pandemic is affecting women and their families and ideally the events will be partnerships with other community group partners.
* CFW is asking County Executive and Council members to co-host one of the events

1. Onboarding Update/New Commissioners

* Commissioner Arlinda Clark joins tonight

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

1. Annual Report Reminder

* Executive Director Finkelstein requested that annual report committee summaries are due by November meeting.

1. Program Manager Position

* Executive Director Finkelstein received over 90 resumes; CFW will convene a selection panel and interviews will commence shortly thereafter.

1. Re-entry Program

* Executive Director Finkelstein reminded the group that the Re-entry Program had a coordinator before the pandemic; had contracted with Athena for a replacement staff person, but had a difficult time finding an appropriate candidate.
* She also explained that it’s difficult to conduct these cohorts and programs remotely and recommended we table the search for a more propitious time in January 2021.
* She also reminded that the open solicitation route was not very fruitful in the past.

**V.        COMMITTEE REPORTS (All Committees to provide a brief report)**

a. Policy and Legislation **Commissioners** **Rubin/Boiman**

* Delegate Sara Love is confirmed for the December 16 Lobby Day in the morning, and the event will be virtual this year. The committee will also issue an invitation to former commissioners and are hosting prior to the legislative session on the advice of Delegate Kelly’s staffer
* We will develop our priority bills primarily from the MLAW legislative roster.

b. Program Planning **Commissioner** **Enendu**

* Commissioner Enendu thanked everyone for joining the strategic planning session, and note the committee is working on a summary report. They will move further discussion to November following the drafting of the report and the listening tour.
* CFW hosts a series of topical programming for members of the community.
* The Divorce Series has also kicked off for the year (first Wednesday of each month through the spring).
* The Committee also had the goal of being responsive to pandemic pressures and concerns.
* With the Career Series, two courses will be made available this fall: November 10th and 17th; also May 4, 11, 18 and 25th
* Self-defense is being tabled for now because of concerns about asking participants for payment. This will be resolved shortly
* The Committee is also considering recording the educational series and making them available on the web.
* One idea was to add a boot camp program with the Montgomery County SWAT Team or the Police Academy
* The Committee is also looking at donation/community service activities for the CFW, namely an effort for the Crisis Center, which has an Amazon wish list, and items can be sent directly.

c. Budget **(Chair needed)**

* Per Executive Director Finkelstein, the county budget hearings are being recorded and available for viewing on YouTube.

      d. Research and Evaluation **(Chair needed)**

* Per President Drew, the goal will be to summarize the listening tour findings in some kind of systematic way.

e. Emerging Leaders **Commissioners** **Belizaire/Weisel**

* Per Commissioner Weisel, Commissioner Whitehead Quigley will chair the Emerging Leaders track for the WLB.

f. Public Relations **Commissioner Argoti**

* The final logo is the blue women’s silhouette with hair; Commissioner Argoti is working to finalize that with the designer.
* The Committee is working with the Programming Committee to amplify programming.
* They are working to update program flyers.
* The Committee will be working on the website towards the end of the year.
* Per Commissioner Drew, Commissioners should update pictures and bios.
* Commissioner should send comments to Isabel if there are items on the website to be updated.

g. WLB **Commissioners Rojas/Swanson**

* Per Commissioner Rojas, The committee has settled on a theme for 2021, Beyond 2020: Advocating with Strength for Equality and Justice. will run from 12:30 to 4:30 pm. will do some pre-recordings. They are considering a keynote immediately followed by the panel.
* Per Commissioner Swanson, looking at how they might do sponsorships, to include a “commercial break”-type format
* A number of sponsors indicated they would continue to support if they were able to do so.
* Prince George’s County has been tasked by County Executive Alsobrooks with doing their own WLB, which they will host during Women’s History Month in March of 2021.
* The committee meets the first Thursday of every month; the Programming Committee meets at 6:00 pm; the WLB committee starts at 7:00 pm.

**VI.       LIAISON REPORTS (All liaisons to provide a brief report)**

1. MLAW                                                                                      **Commissioner Rubin**

* Commissioner Rubin explained that the MLAW Conference is November 19, 2020, with an emphasis on the pandemic. The event will run for two hours, and the cost is $20.

1. HTPC/DV                                                                                **Commissioners** **Rojas/Drew**

* For HTPC, according to Commissioner Rojas, the bus campaign wanted to employ a uniform image across the region, and the Body Works Bill, which requires the proper licensing and other regulation for establishments providing those types of of srevies, is being put on hold for the time being in favor of pandemic-related legislation.
* DVCC: Per President Drew, the group meets every other month, but don’t have pending activity at this moment. The Committee does community programming, including youth healthy relationships education.
* Per Commissioner Whitehead Quigley, the Choose Respect conference is an annual event promoting healthy relationships for teens in the county; recently did an Instagram takeover to share resources. They are also promoting an MCPS town hall on Tuesday about preventing sexual assault and sexual harassment.
* The public service announcement contest will proceed as planned for those interested in submitting 1-minute announcements by March 1.

1. Maryland Commission for Women                                           **Executive Director** **Finkelstein**

* Maryland CFW is sponsoring a book tour with author Lisa See

1. Choose Respect (Respectfest)                                              **Commissioner Whitehead Quigley**

* Per Commissioner Whitehead Quigley, the Choose Respect conference is an annual event promoting healthy relationships for teens in the county; recently did an Instagram takeover to share resources.
* They are also promoting an MCPS town hall on Tuesday about preventing sexual assault and sexual harassment.
* The public service announcement contest will proceed as planned for those interested in submitting 1-minute announcements by March 1.

**VII. AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORTS (All ad hoc committees to provide a brief report)**

1. CFW Scholarship                                                                      **Commissioners** **Maclay/Argoti**

* CFW recently added $2000 in scholarship funding as a result of S2020 event sponsorship, and the Committee is working to have students meet virtually with CFW.

1. Social Committee                                                                     **Commissioner** **Rojas**

* For Domestic Violence Awareness Month, Commissioners are encouraged to sign up for the 11K virtual walk, ongoing through the month of October, which can be completed at intervals throughout the month.

1. By-Laws **Commissioner Drew**

* The Committee has talked with the county attorney for further discussion on two tabled by-laws and will be re-convening.

**VIII. Old Business**

a. Strategic Planning: Next Steps and Committees will be discussed in November. The leadership

would like to do a facilitated session about different work styles, per Commissioner Drew.

b. Executive Director Finkelstein will reissue the Doodle poll for a separate offline discussion about Commission dynamics.

**IX. New Business/Announcements**

* President Drew wished a “Happy Birthday” to theOctober birthdays.

**X. Adjourn**

* The meeting was adjourned at 8:31 pm.