

Maryland Commission for Women

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, January 21, 2016

5 p.m.

51 Monroe Street, Suite 1034 Rockville, MD 20850

Commissioners Attending In Person:

Lee Bachu, Chair

A. Diane Williams, Vice Chair

Marianne Brackney

Corinna Shen

Yun Yang

Commissioners Absent:

Doris Ligon

Staff Attending:

Judith Vaughan-Prather, Executive Director

Tammy Wise, Management Associate

Commissioners Attending Via Teleconference:

Wandra Ashley-Williams, Secretary

Homayara Aziz

Tammy Bresnahan

Gloria Chang

Patricia Cornish

Lorna Forde

Velvet Johnson

Bonnie Nelson Luna

Marion Manski

Betsy Ramirez

Anita Riley

Carole Jaar Sepe

I. Call to Order.....Lee Bachu, Chair

The meeting was called to order at 5:06 p.m. Chair Bachu thanked all the commissioners for their participation in this evening's meeting, especially given the weather forecast, and she called for approval of the minutes of the November 14, 2015 MCW meeting. Commissioner Brackney moved approval of the minutes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Yang and passed unanimously.

II. Chair's Report: Roundtable Discussion/MLAW Conference..... Lee Bachu, Chair

A. Maryland State Archives Summer Intern

For at least the past 10 years, the MCW has funded a summer intern who is recruited and supervised by the Maryland State Archives each year to develop more extensive biographies for the inductees in the Maryland Women's Hall of Fame. The question was raised as to whether the MCW can afford to continue this funding. The Executive Committee approved the expense for the summer of 2016. The Executive Committee plans to review the work the interns have produced and to revisit the decision for next year in September.

B. Friends of the MCW

The Friends of the Maryland Commission for Women is a non-profit, 501(C) 3 organization established in 1997 to support the programs of the MCW. It has been especially helpful in sponsoring the Hall of Fame and Women of Tomorrow events. The FMCW has expressed some concern that without off-setting fundraising, its current funds will be exhausted within a few years. The Hall of Fame and the Women of Tomorrow were combined partly as a cost-saving measure, but still will require between \$4000 and \$6000 for the reception. It was suggested that the Board of the FMCW be invited to meet with the MCW Executive Committee at 4 p.m. immediately before the February MCW meeting in Annapolis.

C. MCW Annual Planning Meeting

Traditionally, the MCW has held its annual planning meeting in September and the Commission has not met in June because the Women of Tomorrow program was held then. Now that the Women of Tomorrow will be celebrated earlier in the year, it is recommended that the MCW annual planning meeting be moved to June so that the Commission can set its plans for the coming fiscal year, which begins July 1, and be ready to put those plans in action by September. Commissioner Ashley-Williams moved that the MCW Annual Planning Meeting be held in June. Commissioner Yang seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

III. Unfinished Business:

A. Bylaws Changes

Commissioner Williams, chair of the MCW Governance Committee, reported that the bylaws changes proposed in November passed unanimously by an electronic vote in the interim since the last meeting, and that vote needs to be ratified at tonight's meeting. The changes established the Hall of Fame and the Women of Tomorrow as separate committees of the MCW, spelled out the responsibilities of those two committees and the Education and Outreach Committee, eliminated the provision for a committee related to the Maryland Women's Heritage Center and established a liaison for that purpose. Commissioner Yang moved ratification of the email vote to approve the proposed changes to the MCW Bylaws. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Brackney and passed unanimously. The commissioners thanked Commissioners Williams and Manski for all their hard work on the just-approved changes and asked them to quickly develop a proposal for handling MCW meetings via teleconference in response to weather and other emergencies making travel for everyone difficult.

B. Sponsorship of the 2016 Women's Legislative Briefing

In the interim since the last meeting, the Executive Committee approved sponsoring the Women's Legislative Briefing at the "Opal" level, an expenditure of \$250, which provides for four attendees, and exhibit table at the event, participation in the "presidents' networking session" and the planning meeting. Several commissioners (Aziz, Bresnahan, Cornish and Yang) are participating as panelists in the seminars at the conference. Commissioner Forde, as First Vice President of the Montgomery County Commission for Women is also the chair of the WLB planning committee. The MCW staff will prepare the MCW exhibit for the event. Commissioners were invited to help staff the table. Commissioner Yang and Shen volunteered to help.

IV. New Business:
No new business was brought before the Commission.

V. Committee Reports

A. Education and Outreach.....Commissioner Forde
No report this evening.

B. Women of Tomorrow.....Commissioners Ashley-Williams and Forde
The Selection Committee met on January 15 to review the 67 nominees – 54 high school students and 13 middle school students. Five students were selected as honorees, three from high school and two from middle school. The committee chairs thanked the members of the Selection Committee for all their very hard work in reviewing so many candidates. Each nominee will be sent a certificate, through her nominator. Commissioner Forde moved approval of the plan to award the honorees as specified above. Commissioner Manski seconded the motion which was approved by consensus of the commissioners present.

C. Hall of Fame.....Commissioner Williams
Twenty nominations for induction into the Maryland Women’s Hall of Fame were received. The Selection panel was equally diverse including representatives from both the Montgomery and Prince George’s County Commission for Women, the Maryland Women’s Heritage Center, and Maryland Now. Six nominees were selected for induction:

- Sophia Balis, Pediatric Dentist
- Oretha Bridgwaters-Simms, Education Pioneer
- Mary C. Goodwillie, Community Activist
- Elaine Harmon, WW II Pilot and WAVE
- Dr. Joanne Katz, Epidemiologist
- Lizette Woodworth Reese, Poet

Unfortunately, the Committee has realized that the March 17 date selected back at the September planning meeting is actually St. Patrick’s Day. The Governor’s mansion is not available on that date, and there are likely to be numerous schedule conflicts and traffic issues in Annapolis that evening. After considerable discussion, it was decided to select a date during the week of April 7 – 11.

D. Legislation and Public Policy.....Commissioner Johnson
The 2016 legislative session of the Maryland General Assembly opened last week. The leadership of the LAPP Committee met to begin work developing a legislative agenda to propose to the MCW. The committee looks forward to robust participation in legislative advocacy for the women of our state this year.

E. Public Relations and CommunicationsCommissioner Ramirez
The MCW has over 500 “likes” on its Face book page. The DHR webmaster has offered to meet with the committee to explore options for updating/redesigning the MCW website as well.

F. Health and Wellness Committee.....Commissioner Aziz
No report this evening.

G. Listening Tour.....Commissioner Cornish
The committee includes Commissioners Bresnahan, Luna, Sepe, Shen and Yang. They met via conference call to review its work plan. They have developed a flier and a description of the project which they plan to send to every CFW in the state inviting them to partner with the MCW in this initiative. They hope to hold at least two public forums between June and November. The title of the listening tour project will be “Voices of Maryland Women.”

H. Governance.....Commissioner Williams
The Committee will have a proposal for any changes to the existing bylaws to present to the Commission by the June meeting. Commissioner Manski was asked to develop the draft for emergency weather meeting procedures to present at the next meeting.

VI. Staff Report.....Executive Director Vaughan-Prather

A. Staffing
Brand new Management Associate Tammy Wise was introduced to the Commission. She began work just this week. The Commissioners welcomed her aboard.

B. Communications Update
The office has finally obtained a postage meter and now can mail items by mail when necessary. In the interest of efficiency of both funds, paper and staff time, most communications will continue to be made electronically whenever possible, but when postage is needed, it is now possible.

C. Office Renovations
The MCW office is scheduled for painting and re-carpeting during the weeks of February 1 – 12. The staff has to pack up everything, including the contents of desks and storage shelves, and will be working out of boxes in a training room in the office of Child Support Enforcement for several days, and will then have to unpack everything again. It may be difficult to reach the staff by phone, but email should remain accessible during this time.

VII. Liaison Reports

A. Women Moving Forward.....Commissioner Johnson
The re-entry readiness conference for incarcerated women at the Maryland Correctional Institute for Women in Jessup is scheduled for April 23. The focus will be on re-introduction to work and family for women who are within several months of release.

B. MLAW.....Commissioner Bachu
The MLAW legislative briefing and reception is scheduled for February 16 in Annapolis at 4:30 in the Miller Senate Office Building. There is no charge to attend the event and it is typically very informative and very well attended. Commissioners were encouraged to attend.

VIII. Adjournment.....Commissioner Bachu
MCW Chair Bachu thanked everyone for attending this evening's meeting, and for all their very hard work in between meetings of the MCW. Despite the looming weather forecast and the change of meeting location, attendance at this meeting was excellent, with only one commissioner unable to participate. There being no further business, Commissioner Bachu adjourned the meeting at 6:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Judith Vaughan-Prather, Executive Director
Maryland Commission for Women
02/08//2016

APPROVED: FEBRUARY 18, 2016