

Maryland Commission for Women

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, April 19, 2018

5 p.m.

Attman-Glazer Building – Room 164

45 Calvert Street, Annapolis, Maryland

Commissioners Attending:

Lee Bachu, Chair

Tawanda Bailey

Tammy Bresnahan

Deborah Cartee

Gloria Chang

Maureen Colburn

Amanda Costley

Lorna Forde

T/C

Lauren Lambert

Bonnie Luna

Marion Manski

Brenda McChriston

April Nyman

Roberta Pardo

Patrishia Robinson

Carole Sepe

Corinna Shen

Evelyne Steward

Ummu Bradley Thomas

Tamara England Wilson

Marylou Yam

Yun Jung Yang

Commissioners Absent:

Homayara Aziz

Marianne Brackney

Staff Attending:

Judith Vaughan-Prather, Executive Director

Tammy Wise, Management Associate

I. Call to Order.....Chair Bachu

The meeting was called to order at 5:06 p.m. by MCW Chair Bachu who welcomed those in attendance. She called for approval of the agenda for tonight's meeting. Commissioner Thomas moved approval of the agenda as amended. The motion, seconded by Commissioner Yang, passed unanimously.

Chair Bachu called for approval of the minutes of the February 15, 2018 MCW meeting. Commissioner Thomas so moved. Commissioner Yang seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Chair Bachu noted that the Governor has appointed seven new commissioners who are all attending the MCW meeting for the first time this evening. She asked those in attendance to introduce themselves to one another and welcomed everyone.

New rosters with contact information for all current commissioners were included in the packets for tonight's meeting.

II. Chair’s Report.....Chair Bachu

A. Comcast Newsmakers Interview

During March, Women’s History Month, the MCW was invited to participate in an interview to be aired on the Comcast Newsmakers Show. Chair Bachu participated in the 15-minute discussion about the MCW and its work. The Newsmakers show also conducted an interview with Leigh Ryan, who successfully nominated Emily Saunders Plummer for induction into the Maryland Women’s Hall of Fame. A link to that show was shared with the commissioners. Segments of Comcast Newsmakers are broadcast to Comcast customers on Xfinity On Demand™, and to the general public at ComcastNewsmakers.com.

B. MCW Annual Planning Meeting

For the past few years, the MCW has devoted its June meeting to planning its agenda for the next fiscal year (July 1 – June 30). Staff was asked to arrange to have this year’s meeting in the same location as last year – the Howard County Executive Office Building. Approval has been granted, so the MCW will meet on June 21 at 3 p.m. in the Columbia/Ellicott City Conference Room of the George Howard Building at 3430 Courthouse Drive in Columbia, Maryland.

C. MCW Officer Elections

The MCW Bylaws provide that elections of officers are held in June in even-numbered years. The terms of office for Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary are for two years, and officers may serve up to two terms in office. All three offices are up for election this year. Chair Bachu is finishing her third year in that office. She was originally elected in August 2015 to one year remaining in the term of the former Chair whose term on the MCW expired in the middle of her term as Chair. Chair Bachu was then re-elected to a full term in 2016. The other two offices (Vice Chair and Secretary) are currently vacant as the terms on the commission for the two commissioners holding those offices expired in July 2017 and the Governor has now replaced them with new commissioners. The process for the elections was distributed to those commissioners attending, along with a nomination form. Nominations must be returned to the MCW office by the May meeting when the nominees will be announced. The elections will be held at the June meeting.

III. Unfinished Business

A. Million Women Mentors

The Million Women Mentors organization will send a representative to brief the MCW on the MWM activities at the MCW’s May 17 meeting.

IV. New Business

No new business was brought before the Commission.

V. Committee Reports

A. Hall of Fame/Women of Tomorrow Ceremony...Commissioners Yang (reporting for Brackney), Forde and Sepe

Commissioner Brackney, who chaired the 2018 Hall of Fame Committee could not attend this evening’s meeting. She asked Commissioner Yang to give the following report:

Approximately 300 people attended the March 15, 2018 Maryland Women’s Hall of Fame and Women of Tomorrow Awards Ceremony at the Miller Senate Office Building. Notables includes the First Lady of Maryland, Mrs. Yumi Hogan. We thank Senator Susan Lee for

stepping in as Mistress of Ceremonies at the last minute. Unfortunately, Delegate Kriselda Valderrama was called into a voting session of the House of Delegates at the last minute, and Senator Susan Lee took over the task with no time for preparation at all. But, she did a wonderful job! Five extraordinary women were inducted into the Hall of Fame:

- **Sandra I. Barnes, Esq.**, Assistant Maryland Attorney General
- **Sandra Williams Ortega, Ph.D.**, Maryland’s First African-American Woman Commissioned U.S. Air Force Officer
- **Emily Saunders Plummer** (posthumous), Courageous Enslaved Woman, Inspiring Mother
- **Rita L. Robinson, Ph.D.**, Educator, Community Leader
- **Hattie N. Washington, Ph.D.**, Educator, Founder of Aunt Hattie’s Place

The biographies of these and all the women ever inducted into the Maryland Women’s Hall of Fame are posted permanently on the website of the Maryland State Archives.

Commissioner Brackney asked her committee to evaluate the Hall of Fame process and ceremony this year. Some of their observations are:

- This was the best ceremony thus far and we received many compliments and appreciation of MD Commission for Women’s efforts/hard work.
- Location – the Senate building is prestigious but we should consider alternative locations and event structure.
- Registration – all names should be on a master list. This year’s awardees, VIPs, and sponsors were on separate lists which made the check-in process confusing and longer than needed.
- All commissioners, not just Hall of Fame Committee/Women of Tomorrow Committee members, should arrive one hour prior to the event.
- MC – We should reconsider having current Maryland state legislators since they will always be in session in March and emergencies such as we experienced could happen again.
- The length of the ceremony can be shorter.
- We should also consider asking top sponsors to say a few words so they can be part of the awards ceremony.
- We must provide equal representation for donors.

Commissioner Sepe reported that five exceptional young women received the Women of Tomorrow Award. This year, 79 students were nominated, representing 20 of Maryland’s 23 counties and Baltimore City, and 56 different schools. Both she and committee co-chair Lorna Forde agreed with the comments above.

B. Listening Tour.....Commissioner Yang

Work on the data analysis and writing of the report of the Listening Tour has begun in earnest. Funds in the MCW’s small budget provide for a stipend for an intern to work in the State Archives, but this year, the Archives did not hire an intern, so the funds have been approved to hire a Ph.D. Sociologist to assist in the data analysis and report writing. There were 19 sessions of the Listening Tour around the state and more than 1000 responses to the on-line survey – in four languages. The Listening Tour Committee is working with the Education and Outreach Committee to plan a conference for all the county Commissions for

Women to release the report. The conference is tentatively planned for Saturday, August 18 at the Notre Dame University of Maryland in Baltimore.

C. Education and Outreach.....Commissioners Bailey and Wilson

Ten new Issue Alerts have been issued since the last MCW meeting in February. The Committee will schedule a joint meeting with the Listening Tour Committee to begin plans for the August 18 conference. The Women Moving Forward Conference at the Maryland Correctional Institute for Women was held April 14 at the prison. About 150 MCI residents attended the conference which is designed to help incarcerated women who are within a 9 to 18 months of release, prepare for their return to community and family. The Commission for Women contributed a \$200 sponsorship to support the conference and Commissioner Bailey served on the planning committee, along with former Commissioner Johnson.

D. Policy and Legislation.....Commissioner Bresnahan

The Maryland General Assembly supported the following legislation, submitting testimony on all:

- HB 1/SB 2 – the Rape Survivor Family Protection Act which has the support of the Governor. This bill passed and has been signed by the Governor.
- HB 1109 - Discrimination in Employment – Conditions Related to Childbirth. This bill failed.
- HB 908/SB 271 – Health Insurance Coverage of Fertility Preservation Procedures for Iatrogenic Infertility. This bill passed!
- HB 1303/SB 491 – Final Permanent Protective Order – Passed
- HB 353/SB 298 – Repeat Sexual Predator Prevention Act: Failed
- HB 797/SB 598 – Correctional Services – Inmates – Menstrual Hygiene Products: Passed

This means that eight of the 11 bills the MCW supported in the General Assembly this year, passed – an excellent outcome.

The next bill signings are scheduled for April 25, May 5 and May 15. Commissioners are welcome to attend. Commissioner Sepe asked that, in the future, when bills are proposed to the Commission for action, a copy of the actual text of the bills be sent to all commissioners.

E. Public Relations and Communications.....Commissioner Aziz

No report.

F. Health and Wellness.....Commissioner Yam

The Committee has issued four Women’s Health Alerts since the last MCW meeting and is looking forward to the report of the Listening Tour Committee to guide its work in the coming year.

VI. Liaison Reports

A. Maryland Women’s Heritage Center..... Chair Bachu

The Heritage Center has been informed that it will receive a substantial bequest which should help with its search for a new location and staffing support.

B. 19th Amendment Commemoration Commission.....Chair Bachu
Chair Bachu and former Vice Chair Williams have represented the MCW on this Commission (the Commission to Commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the Passage of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States) for the past year. The legislation establishing that Commission specifies that two MCW commissioners serve on that board. Chair Bachu will inquire whether the MCW needs to designate another representative since Ms. Williams is no longer a commissioner, and whether Ms. Williams may continue to serve on that board in another capacity.

C. MLAW.....Chair Bachu
The Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women will hold a follow-up reception and celebration on May 2 in Columbia. All are invited.

D. Zonta Human Trafficking Symposium.....Commissioner Yam
The conference is planned for Saturday, April 21 from 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., at the Laurel Branch Library in Laurel. It is entitled “Moving from Awareness to Action,” and will include speakers from law enforcement, service providers, advocates and victims. There is no fee for registration or for the boxed lunch to be provided. Commissioner Yam has served on the planning committee and is on the agenda, introducing one of the speakers. Chair Bachu said she will attend.

E. WAG Foundation.....Commissioner Yang
Commissioner Yang, founder and president of the Maryland WAG Foundation – the Fund for Maryland’s Women and Girls, gave all the commissioners a WAG Foundation brochure and pen, and encouraged everyone to visit its new website. The WAG Foundation was established as a non-profit funding arm for the MCW’s programming Expenses for the Hall of Fame/Women of Tomorrow event exceeded the dedicated donations and sponsorships by more than \$2300, but the WAG Board, through its own fundraising efforts and the generosity of the board members, was able to cover the difference, and to pay for some of the special elements at the ceremony. She welcomed all commissioners to support the organization. Commissioner Chang asked for a copy of the WAG Foundation Bylaws. She wanted to be certain that it will continue to be a positive support for the MCW even after the founding board members are no longer involved.

VII. Baltimore City Commission for Women.....Commissioner Wilson
The Baltimore City Commission for Women held its first meeting on March 27, and over 100 people attended. Commissioner Wilson has been appointed to the BCCFW. The MCW Commissioners commended her for this and encouraged her leadership on the new board. It was noted that the re-establishment of the BCCFW is a direct result of the Listening Tour forum held in the city, for which Commissioner Wilson was instrumental in coordinating. She encouraged City Councilwoman Sharon Green Middleton to support the Listening Tour forum in Baltimore, and that became the inspiration to reactivate the BCCFW.

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

A. Professional Fellows Program 2018

The MCW office will host a professional fellow from the Republic of Azerbaijan for four weeks in April/May of this year, beginning April 27. Nargiz Aleyeva will be invited to make a brief presentation on women’s issues in her county at the May MCW meeting.

B. Hall of Fame/Women of Tomorrow “Archived Files”

The Hall of Fame was established in 1985, and the Women of Tomorrow Awards was established in 1997. Over the years since then, the MCW office has moved several times, and when it moved to Rockville in 2014 with a new Executive Director, those files did not come to the new location. Recently, the MCW received a request from the New York Power Authority. NYPA is considering naming a building after Edith Clarke (1883 – 1959), a 2003 inductee into the Maryland Women’s Hall of Fame, and NYPA was hoping for help locating some of her descendents. Ms. Clarke was the first female electrical engineer in the U.S., and the first female professor of electrical engineering at the University of Texas at Austin Her family resided in Howard County. After some work, it was discovered that the files were all in a storage room at DHS headquarters in Baltimore. We were able to retrieve them and to create a master file for each of the two programs in the MCW office – and also to provide the information on the 2003 inductee to the requestor. The staff decided that the storage policy will be to keep the original nomination packets for both the honorees and the other nominees for five years, and to keep the nomination packets for the honorees indefinitely. If a time comes when those files can no longer be stored in the MCW office, they should be properly stored in a condition-controlled environment such as that of the Maryland State Archives.

C. Annual Report for FY 18

The Commission programs on a fiscal year of July 1 – June 30. Staff will soon begin work on the annual report for FY 18 (the year ending June 30, 2018). Committee chairs will be sent drafts of the report of their committee’s work as they are developed. The report will likely be published in the fall.

D. Maryland Crime Victims’ Rights Conference

Management Associate Tammy Wise and Executive Director Vaughan-Prather attended the Maryland Victims’ Rights Conference at the University of Maryland College Park on April 12. It was an excellent conference with many very informative speakers focusing largely on human trafficking, but also discussing how adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) affect brain development and the effects of multiple ACEs on adult and young adult lives.

E. Scheduling for MCW Events and Meetings

Sending calendar invites for MCW meetings and other activities has resulted in confusion as some commissioners have alternative time zones and other calendar issues that affect timing, and “reply all” messages have created even further confusion. The staff will send email notices of meetings, and each commissioner will be responsible for getting those dates on her own calendar.

IX. Announcements

A. The Connie Morella Library

The Bethesda Library was renovated and updated to a state of the art library, and at a ribbon-cutting ceremony on April 14, was re-named for the Honorable Connie Morella, former U.S. Congresswoman from Maryland, Maryland State Delegate and Senator, and former U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations. Ms. Morella was inducted into the Maryland Women’s Hall of Fame in 1994. Executive Director Vaughan-Prather attended the event.

B. WOW Festival.....Commissioner Yam

Commissioner Yam announced that the WOW (Women of the World) Festival will be held on Saturday, April 28 on the campus of Notre Dame of Maryland University. Tarana Burke, founder of the #MeToo Movement will be the keynote speaker.

X. Adjournment.....Chair Bachu

The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Judith Vaughan-Prather, Executive Director
Maryland Commission for Women

APPROVED: May 17, 2018