

Maryland Commission for Women

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, January 21, 2021

5 p.m.

Video Conference Call

Commissioners Attending:

Yun Jung Yang, Chair
Tawanda A. Bailey, First Vice Chair
Carole Jaar Sepe, Second Vice Chair
Tammy Bresnahan
Deborah L. Cartee
Maureen G. Colburn
Amanda L. Costley
Melissa H. Curtin
Essita Duncan
Kristi S. Halford
Eugenia B. Henry
Lauren M. Lambert
Patricia M. Lambert
Beth Anne Langrell
Bonnie N. Luna

Brenda J. McChriston
Ishrat N. Memon
Roberta Pardo
Corrina Yi-Yuan Kuo Shen
Maxine Griffin Somerville
Evelyne S. Steward
Tamara E. Wilson
Marylou N. Yam

Commissioners Absent:

Gloria Chang
Luanne Ruddell

Staff Attending:

Judith Vaughan-Prather, Executive Director
Tammy Wise, Management Associate

I. Call to Order.....Yang

A. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:06 p.m. by MCW Chair Yang. A quorum was established. She welcomed everyone and wished all a very happy new year. On behalf of the three MCW officers, she thanked the commissioners and the staff for all their very hard work over the past couple of months. The Commission has not met since November, and much has happened since then, but none of it stopped the commissioners or the staff from continuing work on the Commission's initiatives. The three committees – Policy and Legislation, Achievement and Recognition, and the SWIM research project – have all put in hours and hours of hard work and have accomplished a great deal. First Vice Chair Tawanda Bailey and Second Vice Chair Carole Jaar Sepe both echoed these sentiments and added their thanks as well.

B. Approval of Agenda

Chair Yang asked to add one item – the study of the MCW's enabling legislation - to the Unfinished Business section of the agenda for tonight's meeting. Commissioner Wilson moved approval of the agenda as amended. Commissioner Halford seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

C. Approval of Minutes of the November 19, 2020 MCW Meeting

The Chair called for any amendments to the minutes of the November MCW meeting. Commissioner Lambert noted that she is listed as being absent, but she was present, having joined the meeting just after the roll call. Commissioner Langrell moved approval of the minutes of the November MCW meeting with this amendment. Commissioner Bailey seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

II. Executive Committee Report..... Yang

A. 50th Anniversary

The MCW was originally established by the Governor in 1965 and it was active, somewhat off and on during the following six years. It was finally set in state law in 1971 making this year the 50th anniversary of the MCW’s enabling legislation and of the Commission as we now know it. The Commission plans to commemorate this milestone as part of its annual roundtable meeting with the county Commissions for Women. Chair Yang invited the Commissioners to suggest additional meaningful ways to celebrate a half-century of advocacy on behalf of the women and girls of our state. Commissioners suggested that publishing the SWIM Report would be a very appropriate thing to do in this anniversary year. They also suggested adding a banner to the MCW website and Facebook page, and perhaps a banner that can be added to the commissioners and staff email signature lines. Commissioner Halford suggested developing an infographic about the MCW and its history. Commissioner Langrell volunteered to coordinate the activities. Commissioner Sepe emphasized the importance of centering the CFW Roundtable/Release of the SWIM Report around the 50th anniversary commemoration.

III. Unfinished Business

A. Bylaws Amendments

At November’s meeting, the Executive Committee proposed several changes to the MCW Bylaws. At that meeting, Commissioner Steward moved that the proposed changes be accepted as submitted. Commissioners Wilson and Lambert seconded the motion which passed unanimously. It was noted that the MCW Bylaws require 30-days’ notice of any proposed change to the Bylaws, so a vote to officially incorporate these changes must take place at the tonight’s meeting. Commissioners all received notice of the proposed changes in November and again this week, along with a copy of the Bylaws with those changes incorporated. Commissioner Pat Lambert moved approval of the Bylaws amendments as proposed at the November meeting. Commissioner Steward seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

B. CFW Roundtable Meeting..... Somerville

It is still hoped to hold the CFW Roundtable Meeting on Thursday, May 6, 2021 at 6:00 – 8:30 p.m. as a virtual event. The planning committee will set dates for sending “save the date” notices and invitations to the county/city Commissions for Women in the state.

C. MCW Enabling Legislation

In previous months, there was some discussion of whether the legislation establishing and empowering the MCW has become outdated, and whether it still serves the MCW well. Commissioner Pat Lambert very generously offered the services of a law clerk in her office to review the enabling legislation of other CFWs around the country and to compare their duties

and responsibilities to the MCW's. He provided an excellent and thorough report, which the Executive Committee will review and bring back to the MCW for further discussion. Commissioner P. Lambert noted that any changes to the legislation would likely involve a multi-year process. Chair Yang thanked Commissioner Lambert for this valuable contribution.

IV. New Business

No new business was brought before the Commission.

V. Committee Reports

A. Policy and Legislation (PAL) Committee..... Bresnahan

1. Proposed MCW Legislative Platform

The Policy and Legislation Committee has developed its recommendations for the Commission's own legislative platform for 2021. One member of the committee has volunteered to draft the MCW's statement on each bill and to track its progress:

Bill No.	Bill Name	Hearing Dates	Commissioner
HB 581 SB 486	Essential Workers Act	H S	Carole Jaar Sepe
HB 205 SB 427	Public Schools - Menstrual Products Availability	H 1/27 S 2/11	Brenda McChriston
HB 411 SB 43	Criminal Law - Law Enforcement Officers - Prohibition on Sexual Activity	H 1/18 S 1/21	Pat Lambert
HB 147 SB 250	Love is No Defense Act	H 1/14 S 1/20	Amanda Costley
HB 359 SB 437	Smart Start Data Marker (3-year study of Public Schools provisions for pregnant and parenting students)	H 1/27 S	Kristi Halford
HB 524 SB	Pregnant Incarcerated Continuity of Care Act 2021	H S	Essita Duncan

Commissioner Bresnahan moved approval of the MCW's support of and testimony on these six bills. Commissioner Langrell seconded the motion which passed unanimously. Although we have already missed most of the hearings, the MCW will send letters of support to the appropriate committees as soon as possible.

2. Women’s Legislative Briefing

Commissioner Halford is serving as the MCW’s liaison to the 2021 Women’s Legislative Briefing, coordinated by the Montgomery County CFW. The event will be a virtual conference held on January 31, 2021, 12:30 – 4:30. The theme for this year will be: Beyond 2020: Advocating with Strength for Equality and Justice. An opening plenary session will include a panel of women working “on the front lines” in health, public safety, corrections, government, etc., followed by breakout sessions on such topics as economic justice, safety, shattering the glass ceiling, etc. Commissioners Yang, Bailey, Sepe, Halford, Somerville, Duncan and McChriston have all been registered, along with both staff members. The MCW is a community co-sponsor of this event.

3. MLAW.....Curtin

MLAW has published its legislative agenda for 2021 and is inviting individuals and organizations to sign on. Commissioner Curtin sent a link to all commissioners and encouraged them to sign onto the agenda as individuals. MLAW is also hosting a virtual briefing on its agenda on January 28.

B. Achievement and Recognition (ARC) Committee..... Cartee

Nominations were received from October 26 through November 30. Two Selection Committees were composed of leaders from statewide women’s organizations. Sixteen nominations were received for the Hall of Fame and seventeen students were nominated for the Maryland Young Women Leaders Award. The nomination packets were made available to the selection committees on December 4 and the committees met on December 14 to make their decisions on whom to honor.

The 2021 Inductees into the Maryland Women’s Hall of Fame are:

- o Elizabeth Bobo, Politician, Maryland’s First Female County Executive
- o Margaret Briggs Gregory Hawkins (posthumous), Suffragist
- o Dr. Ruby Reese Moone, Human Rights Activist
- o Dr. Nancy K. Welker, Physicist, Technology Pioneer
- o Celeste Revillon Winans (posthumous), Philanthropist

The 2021 Maryland Young Women Leaders awards will be presented to:

- o Esha Ahmad, Northern High School, Calvert County
- o Georgia Hammond, Hereford High School, Baltimore County
- o Elaine Huang, Altholton High School, Howard County
- o Brina Ratangee, Urbana High School, Frederick County
- o Ashley Thommana, Montgomery Blair High School, Montgomery County

An in-person ceremony is not possible this year, so the ARC Committee will work with the DHS Communications Office to create pages on the MCW internet site that will recognize and memorialize this year’s honorees. It is hoped that the “website” can be ready to go live on March 18.

C. Status of Women in Maryland (SWIM) Committee..... Yam

The collection of data is now complete. Commissioners Yam, Steward, and Yang, along with the Executive Director will meet with the researcher tomorrow to finalize the data and develop the introduction. The next step will be to start the design and graphic presentation of the report. Commissioner Yam thanked her committee members for all their very hard work.

VII. Liaison Reports

A. The Foundation for the Maryland Commission for Women.....Shen

The Foundation is seeking new board members. The Foundation’s bylaws call for a minimum of seven members and there are currently two vacant positions. The FMCW was established in July 2017 and has sponsored the MCW’s programs and events since then, including the 2018 Voices of Maryland Women Conference on the campus of Notre Dame of Maryland University, the Hall of Fame/Women of Tomorrow ceremonies, the 2020 Summit and currently, the SWIM Project research. Special thanks go especially to Commissioner Henry for her very generous support of MCW’s programs, including the \$500 scholastic awards the Pai Ping Foundation (established in Commissioner Henry’s father’s honor) has committed to provide to each of the five MYWLA students for each of five years, beginning in 2021 . The FMCW is in good standing. Commissioner Shen asked commissioners to consider applying for board membership or encouraging anyone they know who might be interested to apply.

B. The Maryland Women’s Heritage Center..... Yang

The MWHC board held its quarterly board meeting last month. The Heritage Center has scheduled a free virtual program on January 28 titled “[The Next 100 Years.](#)”

C. Women Moving Forward Conference..... Bailey

Plans for the 2021 conference, traditionally held in April at the Maryland Correctional Institution for Women are now to attempt to hold the conference in October, if the pandemic is sufficiently under control by then. Commissioner Bailey has continued as the MCW liaison with the WMF planning committee, as she has been involved for several years and is already on its distribution list, but it is now an appropriate time for Commissioners Colburn and McChriston to take on that role as the committee is ready to begin planning the 2021 in the MCIW.

D. Maternal Mortality Review Stakeholders Group..... Langrell

No report at this time as the group has not met recently.

E. Maryland Women’s History Museum..... Luna

No report at this time.

F. UMD SAFE Center..... Costley

No report at this time as the group has not met recently.

VIII. Staff Report..... Vaughan-Prather

A. Annual Report;

The [2019 – 2020 Annual Report](#) has been published on the MCW website. It is expected that the print center will reopen soon, so printing of hard copies may be possible in the next several weeks.

B. MCW Website Updates

The staff is working with the DHS Communications Office to develop a few upgrades to the MCW’s website, hoping to incorporate some of the changes Commissioners have recommended.

VIII. Announcements

1. [MCASA’s Virtual Legislative Briefing](#) – January 26: 6 – 6:45 p.m.
2. [MLAW’s Virtual Legislative Briefing](#) – January 28: 5 – 6:30 p.m.
3. [Montgomery County CFW’s Virtual Women’s Legislative Briefing](#) – January 31: 12:30 – 4:30 p.m.
4. [Prince George’ County CFW’s Virtual Legislative Briefing](#) – February 7: 1 – 4 p.m.
5. CFW Roundtable Meeting – May 6

6. Next MCW Meeting Dates:

- Executive Committee – February 11, 2021
- **MCW Meeting – February 18, 2021**

IX. Adjournment..... Yang

Chair Yang thanked all the commissioners again for all their hard work and dedication throughout what has been an especially challenging year.

The meeting was adjourned the meeting at 6:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Judith Vaughan-Prather, Executive Director
Maryland Commission for Women