

Alexandria Commission for Women

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, June 14, 2022

2525 Mt Vernon Avenue

Multipurpose Room

7:00 pm

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jennifer Stowe (1 excused absence); Anuja Miner (1 absence); Maxanne “Maxie” Witkin; Sarah Porter (1 excused absence); Sarah Holley (1 excused absence); Elizabeth “PJ” Palmer Johnson; Jennifer Wetmore (1 excused absence); Emily Eckert; T. Nicole Hutchinson; Yvette Jiang and Ann Harbour (1 excused absence)

MEMBERS PRESENT (VIRTUAL): Shelley Brown (1 excused absence); Crystal Kramer (1 excused absence)

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Lee Taylor-Penn (1 excused absence) and Charlotte Scherer (1 excused absence/1 unexcused absence)

OTHER ATTENDEES: Alura Romero (Visitor); Debra Evans, Department of Community and Human Services (DCHS), Domestic Violence Program/Sexual Assault Center (DV/SA); LaTanya Chinagorom, DCHS, DV/SA (Virtual),

1. WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER/PUBLIC COMMENT

The meeting of the Alexandria Commission for Women (ACFW) was called to order by First Vice Chair Miner at 7:02 p.m. The floor was opened for public comment. No public comments were made.

2. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MAY 2022 MINUTES

Review of the minutes for May 2022 took place. From June 2022, the meeting minutes will no longer be printed. The Commission will send the minutes by email for editing. First Vice Chair Miner moved to approve the minutes as amended. All were in favor.

3. UPDATE ON REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS LETTER

The Commission needed to vote on the changes to the reproductive rights letter. A majority vote is needed. First Vice Chair Miner motioned to vote on the changes of the letter. Commissioner Witkin seconded. Everyone in favor of sending the letter with changes that were made. They stated their reasons why. The majority voted by voice that the letter will come from the Chair. The letter will be circulated again with

changes and those Commissioners who want to sign the letter can undersign it. **Action Item: First Vice Chair Miner will check to see if the members who are not present can vote.**

Commissioner Harbour motioned that a vote to approve the letter as drafted be signed by Chair Kramer on behalf of the Commission to submit to City Council.

Six Commissioners were in favor of the letter; four abstained; one chose not to vote:

Commissioners Eckert, Witkin, Porter, Harbour, Jiang, and First Vice Chair Miner voted "Yes."

Commissioners Stowe, Holley, Wetmore, and Palmer-Johnson abstained.

Commissioner Hutchinson voted, "No."

4. UPDATE ON ACFW WEBSITE

First Vice Chair Miner will meet with Debra Evans and LaTanya Chinagorom and will send an email to Commissioners requesting background (bio) information from them to add to the website. Outdated information will be removed from the ACFW website.

5. SOLIDIFY POLICY ONE-PAGERS

First Vice Chair Miner spoke with Chair Kramer who met with Councilwoman Alyia Gaskin and the Chair of the Environmental Policy Committee. **Action Item: Chair Kramer will provide an update on this meeting during the next Commission for Women meeting.**

6. RETREAT AGENDA

The ACFW retreat will take place Saturday, September 10th, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. Lunch or breakfast will be included. A Zoom link will be provided. The Executive Committee met to walk through what should be accomplished that day. **Action Item: Debra Evans was asked to check for financial resources. First Vice Chair Miner will solicit those who can facilitate pro bono. Action Item: Second Vice Chair Brown and Commissioner Harbour will solicit facilitators.**

Commissioners will also discuss how to better collaborate with other women's commissions from the northern Virginia area and commissions from local and other counties to include liaisons with other commissions to find out their structures. These liaisons can assist with better alignment with City Council. It was suggested to track other Commissions minutes as opposed to having Commissioners attend various meetings.

Break out sessions will take place by topic during the retreat. It was also suggested to assign Commissioners to do research on topics before the retreat. **Action Item: First Vice Chair Miner will remind Chair Kramer and**

will send a Google doc for the retreat events. Action Item: Commissioners were asked to do background work on the topics before joining the retreat and to research non-governmental organizations.

Commissioner Palmer Johnson suggested a discussion on having a “50 under 50” or “50 over 50” awards be added to the retreat agenda. Names can be submitted by Commissioners as well. **Action Item:**

Commissioners will research a venue for the awards.

7. REPORT OUT

- *DASH Representative Report Out* – Commissioner Jiang provided an update on DASH’s meeting that was held in April 2022. They will meet again in July 2022. Commissioner Jiang will be the representative on the Duke Street subcommittee and will have more to share after their next meeting.
- *Commission on Human Rights*: Commissioner Palmer Johnson reported on the Commission on Human Rights meeting that took place “on May 17, 2022, at 7pm in City Hall, Room 2000, the Chet & Sabra Avery Room:
 - The Executive Committee had not met the previous week therefore there was no report;
 - There was an appointment of the Nominating Committee for June Elections; the members appointed were Susan Kellom, Danielle Beach, and Scott Schwartz;
 - The Electronic Participation Policy was presented and adopted;
 - Old and New Business:
 - The AHRC received a letter from the James F. Parajon, City Manager indicating that the Rainbow Crosswalk could not be approved at this time; AHRC will continue the issue with City Council;
 - The VAHR Conference will take place June 11; it will be virtual & in-person. Prince William will be the venue;
 - The Office of Human Rights will host a summer intern; she is Alaina Browand, Fordham ’24;
 - There will be a Naturalization Ceremony on September 13 at 1pm in Market Square.”
- *Commission on Aging*: Commissioner Stowe reported on the Commission on Aging (COA) meeting where Officer Torrance gave a report, Mike Doyle of Families for Safe Streets presented. Affordable

Housing was discussed. There was a document sent to AARP about scooters. They provided 23 liaison reports.

- Commission on HIV/AIDS: A speaker presented on HIV in the community in May 2022. There are several vacancies on the HIV/AIDS Commission. The Commission is not getting the draw that it was before in the early to late 90's. Commissioner Hutchinson would like to invite them to the Commission for Women meeting. They are still working with the website committee. The HIV/AIDS Commission received an award from Delta Sigma Theta on Friends of NoVac Community Award, "Advocacy in the Community." The award will be given June 18, 2022, at 12:30 p.m. **Action Item: Commissioner Hutchinson will put the information into a formal report and send it to Debra Evans.**
- DVP/SAC Wishlist - https://www.target.com/gift-registry/gift-giver?registryId=6bcf0c70-bc6c-11eb-9092-54ed1d7afa55&lnk=registry_custom_url&type=CHARITY

8. ONGOING BUSINESS

Zebra Articles: Zebra articles are due. First Vice Chair Miner will send a reminder to Commissioners about the Zebra articles. **Action Item: First Vice Chair Miner will write an article for the next edition of the Zebra Press; Commissioner Palmer Johnson will write an article for August 2022.**

Adjournment

First Vice Chair Miner motioned to adjourn the meeting; All were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Important Dates / Reminders / Announcements

- ✓ **Domestic Violence Awareness Month (October)**
- ✓ **Breast Cancer Awareness Month (October)**