

Alexandria Commission for Women

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, October 11, 2022

2525 Mt Vernon Avenue

Multipurpose Room

7:00 pm

MEMBERS PRESENT: Crystal Kramer; Charlotte Scherer; Anuja Miner; Maxanne “Maxie” Witkin; Emily Eckert; T. Nicole Hutchinson; Yvette Jiang; Shelley Brown; Jennifer Stowe (1 absence); Sarah Porter (1 excused absence); Ann Harbour (1 excused absence); Jennifer Wetmore (1 excused absence); Lexi White – new Commissioner (Policy Director of REPRO Rising).

MEMBERS PRESENT (VIRTUAL): Lee Taylor-Penn (1 excused absence)

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Sarah Holley (2 excused absences) and Elizabeth “PJ” Palmer Johnson (1 excused absence)

OTHER ATTENDEES: Debra Evans, Domestic Violence Program/Sexual Assault Center (DVP/SAC), Department of Community and Human Services (DCHS) and LaTanya Chinagorom (DVP/SAC, DCHS)

1. WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER/PUBLIC COMMENT

The meeting of the Alexandria Commission for Women (ACFW) was called to order by Chair Kramer at 7:06 p.m. Introductions took place. The floor was opened for public comment. No public comments were made.

2. NEW COMMISSION FOR WOMEN MEETING SCHEDULE

The schedule will still begin at 7 p.m. and subcommittees will meet at 8 p.m. Executive Committee meetings will take place after the regular commission meeting.

3. COMMISSION/COUNCIL MEMBERS ENGAGEMENT

Commissioners will pair with City Council Members as follows: Commissioner Eckert / Councilwoman Sarah Bagley; Commissioner / Councilman Kirk McPike; Chair Kramer / Mayor Justin Wilson; Commissioner Witkin / Councilman John Chapman; Commissioner Wetmore / Vice Mayor Amy Jackson; Commissioner Jiang / Councilwoman Alyia Gaskins and Commissioner Scherer / Councilman Canek Aguirre.

Commissioners will update Council on the Commission for Women business. Subjects will be clear through the minutes. **Action Item: Commissioners were asked to direct suggestions to the Commission Executive Committee. Chair Kramer will send an email to those who are part of the Commission/Council pairings.**

4. LEGISLATIVE PACKAGE SUGGESTIONS

Subcommittee goals were submitted. There will be other commissions that will have input on the subject as well. **Action Item: Chair Kramer will send the language to Commissioner Stowe, who will discuss with the Commission on Aging.**

One-Pagers: The one-pagers are in draft form. Subcommittees (Affordable Housing and Domestic Violence Sexual Assault and Human Trafficking) will discuss whether they want to keep or toss the one-pagers. DCHS Communications can provide a format for one-pagers. **Action Item: Chair Kramer will send one-pagers to commissioners who will determine how it will evolve to include key events and events from subcommittees.**

5. STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION'S NEW CITY MODEL POLICY

City Council released a response to policies that are affecting transgender students. The document was forwarded to Commissioners by email. Commissioner Taylor-Penn emailed comments to Chair Kramer. It was suggested to add other entities who agree on the standards. LGBTQ Task Force, Human Rights Office and one other entity wrote the letter together along with City Council.

A motion was made by Chair Harbour to move that Commissioners approve the framework for a letter opposing the current administration's model policy implementation and ensuring that any framework includes key components that have not been included in previous comments. Seconded by Chair Kramer. All were in favor. **Action Item: Chair Kramer will reach out to Commissioner Palmer Johnson. Action Item: Commissioner Harbour will contact Arlington County Commission for Women to have them sign a regional statement and letter. Chair Kramer will contact Human Rights Commission, Fairfax County, Fairfax City Commissions for Women. Action Item: Have a draft letter for public comment prepared by October 19, 2022. Commissioner Scherer and Commissioner Taylor-Penn will work together on the letter and will send it send it to Chair Kramer.**

Kudos were extended to Commissioner Scherer whose letter on abortion and transgender rights was published by New York Times. **Action Item: The Commission will see if it could be reprinted in the Zebra Press.**

6. DEBRIEF ON STRATEGIC PLAN FOR THE UPCOMING YEAR

Printed copies of the Plan were made available for Commissioners. It was suggested that subcommittees meet to review and edit the by the November 2022 meeting. The Plan should be finalized by 2023.

Commissioner White selected to join the Reproductive Rights subcommittee. REPRO Rising has expressed interest in partnering with the Commission. It was suggested to write “potential partners” in the Plan for other organizations. The Alexandria Bar Association, ARHA, Alexandria Department of Health along with others were added to the Commission’s potential community partners. It was suggested to include data on contraceptive use and access, clinics, and raising awareness, to create an addendum to the Commission for Women Report, and to pre-file bills annually in November in reference to abortion access and services.

Action Item: Chair Kramer will send link when pre-filing bills are active. Action Item: Commissioners will vote on the letter in November.

7. SUBCOMMITTEES FOR THE NEXT YEAR

Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Subcommittee members: Second Vice Chair Brown, Commissioners Eckert, Harbour, Taylor-Penn, Porter, and Witkin.

Sexual Assault/Domestic Violence/Human Trafficking Subcommittee members: Chair Kramer, Commissioners Palmer Johnson, Stowe, and Wetmore.

Affordable Housing and Transportation Subcommittee members: First Vice Chair Miner; Commissioners Jiang, Scherer, and Hutchinson.

Commissioner Hutchinson is responsible for social media. Permissions must be transferred to the current Executive Committee and Facebook access will be transferred to a commissioner who is familiar with running this platform. It was suggested to place social media items in a folder in SharePoint. Subcommittees met after this evening’s main meeting. **Action Item: All were asked to take notes at their meetings and send them to Chair Kramer, Debra Evans, and LaTanya Chinagorom. Action Item: All were asked to inform Commissioner Hutchinson on items to post. Action Item: Commissioner Hutchinson will give Chair Kramer access to the Commission’s Instagram account.**

8. COMMISSION WEBSITE / COMMISSION FOR WOMEN ANNIVERSARY

The Commission for Women website was updated; many links and content were corrected. A pic of the retreat was later added to the website. **Action Item: Commissioners were asked to review their website.**

Action Item: Commissioners must renew their term dates or must reapply. Action Item: Debbie Evans will send the roster for Commissioners to everyone.

It was suggested that Commissioners add bios and pics to the website. **Action Item: First Vice Chair Miner will send a word document to everyone for their bios to be added. All were asked to send responses to**

Chair Kramer and First Chair Miner. Action Item: Chair Kramer shared that the Commission would create a planning subcommittee for the Commission for Women's 50th anniversary (for 2024). This will be placed on the agenda for November 2022.

9. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT OUT

Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault/Human Trafficking Subcommittee: Human Trafficking was added to the DV/SA subcommittee during the retreat. January 2023 is Human Trafficking Awareness Month. Commissioner Stowe received some potential names of speakers that will join the committee on January 23 to create a 3-person panel and with Mayor to give the welcoming remarks. **Action Item: The DV/SA subcommittee will make calls and will partner with some non-profits.** Commissioner Jiang reviewed the Office of Data and Analytics dashboard – Resident survey data included a breakdown on sex (male/female) from 2020. **Action Items: Ms. Evans will send Alex Liden's information (as a potential moderator) to Commissioner Stowe. Second Vice Chair Brown offered someone who can be on the panel. Commissioner Wetmore offered to reach out to someone at Homeland Security, The Polaris Project, and other places.**

- DASH Representative Report Out – Commissioner Jiang reported – She met with the DASH general manager. DASH is not a governing body and does not set policy and is therefore, not subject to the rules of the public meetings or requirements of FOIA-set laws to DASH business. Members are being expanded from 9 to 17 members and have an opening for a representative from Alexandria City Public Schools. The Duke Street in Motion Project is underway. All were asked to fill out the feedback form (due by October 28th). DASH will meet in November to discuss feedback.
- Commission on Human Rights: Commissioner Palmer Johnson reported - The Human Rights met on Tuesday, September 20, 2022. Remarks were made in honor of Chet Avery a former member of the Human Rights Commission who served several terms on the Commission. City Hall room 2000 is the room known as the Chet & Sabra Avery Room in recognition of their many years of service to Alexandria. David Lanier, Assistant City Attorney, presented a PowerPoint presentation on the public meeting FOIA requirements which detailed the roles and responsibilities of commissioners and the exec committee initiatives for FY23 for the human rights commission. Complete Legislative package education policy increasing outreach to the Office of Human Rights and Permissions and addressing discriminatory practices in housing and the Office of Human Rights has completed its annual report and copies are available to interested parties. Because of resistance from the City, the Human Rights Commission is establishing a task force on rainbow crosswalks. Members of the Human Rights

Commission have advocated for the rainbow crosswalk for more than a year. Additionally, a design was submitted without any progress. In honor of Indigenous People's Day, the executive committee did not meet on Monday, October 11, 2022. Commissioner Palmer Johnson was appointed to a second-year term on the executive board. Kudos were extended to Commissioner Palmer Johnson in her absence.

- Commission on Aging: Commissioner Stowe reported that the Commission on Aging will meet on Thursday, October 13, 2022, at The Landing, ground level.
- Commission on HIV/AIDS: Commissioner Hutchinson reported – Twenty-two vacancies are open on this Commission on HIV/AIDS. It was suggested that the name of the Commission should include HEP-C. Action Item: Commissioner Hutchinson will send a letter to the Commission on HIV/AIDS asking how they will move forward with six people currently serving and will update the Commission for Women with what the Commission on HIV/AIDS needs.
- DVP/SAC Wishlist - https://www.target.com/gift-registry/gift-giver?registryId=6bcf0c70-bc6c-11eb-9092-54ed1d7afa55&lnk=registry_custom_url&type=CHARITY

10. ONGOING BUSINESS

Zebra Press Articles: First Vice Chair Miner prepared an article on Breast Cancer Awareness Month. They added more local content to the article. Chair Kramer said the Commission will take a pause on *Zebra Press* articles until further information can be obtained from Commissioner Palmer Johnson. It was suggested to align the articles with the Commission's strategic plan and provide quarterly articles (versus monthly) and to reach out to *Alex Now*. It was suggested to have Zebra articles align with the Commission's strategic plan.

Adjournment

Commissioner Hutchinson motioned to adjourn the meeting; Seconded by Commissioner Scherer. All were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 9:02 p.m.

Important Dates / Reminders / Announcements

- ✓ **Domestic Violence Awareness Month (October)**
- ✓ **Breast Cancer Awareness Month (October)**
- ✓ **HIV/AIDS Awareness Month (December)**
- ✓ **Human Trafficking Awareness Month (January)**