

## Alexandria Commission for Women

### Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, June 13, 2023

7:00 pm

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Elisabeth Palmer Johnson (3 excused absences); Maxanne “Maxie” Witkin (1 excused absence); Yvette Jiang; Crystal Kramer; Anuja Miner (1 excused absence); Jennifer Wetmore (3 excused absences); Jennifer Stowe (3 excused absences); T. Nicole Hutchinson (1 excused absence/1 unexcused); Lexi White (1 excused absence); Shelley Brown (1 excused absence) and Emily Eckert

**MEMBERS EXCUSED:** Sarah Holley (3 excused absences) and Matthew Worner; (1 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 in-person meeting of the Alexandria Commission for Women (ACFW) was called to order by Chair Kramer at 7:02 p.m. This meeting was held in person and via Zoom and was made open to the public for comment.

#### 2. APPROVAL OF MAY 2023 MINUTES

The May 2023 minutes were shared with the Commissioners for review during the meeting. A motion was made by Chair Kramer to approve the minutes; Commissioner Wetmore approved; seconded by Commissioner Witkin. All were in favor. None opposed.

The City Council will vote on posts for former Commissioners Lee Taylor-Penn and Sarah Porter’s; Charlotte Scherer’s former post – will be voted on in the next City Council meeting.

#### 3. AUGUST 19th RETREAT

A goal is to finalize the survey for the Commissioners finished by next week. **Action Item: Forward the survey to retreat facilitator Jessy Cuddy by June 19, 2023.**

#### 4. MEET & GREET OF ACFW

The last Commission for Women meet and greet was held at the U.S. Patent and Trade Office where City officials came to network. Commissioner Hutchinson’s community has a rooftop room that the Commission

can use for their next networking meeting. The Commission agreed to rebranding. The event can be a relationship-building with elected officials. Commissioners decided to hold this event in September 2023.

**Action Item: A SurveyMonkey will be sent to everyone for food donations. Commissioners will get sponsorship from a few places.**

#### **5. DISCUSSION OF HOW COMMISSION WANTS TO PARTNER WITH SUPPORT THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR WOMEN'S INNOVATIONS**

Jane Plitt shared information about the National Center for Women's Innovations and would like the Commission to partner with them at the gala. They also would like to partner on STEM topics. Second Vice Chair Brown will call Ms. Plitt in reference to STEM. It was suggested to discuss resources and funding at the retreat to have a clear goal and strategy and to find a 501(c)(3) to channel money through. Will need \$5 – 6K. There was a motion to table the discussion until the retreat. All agreed.

#### **6. 50th ANNIVERSARY PLANNING COMMITTEE UPDATES**

The Commission will discuss fundraising with the City Attorney. Someone will ask about partnering and if the Commission can accept gift cards from sponsors. The City is looking at fundraising and will provide guidance this Summer 2023. The possibility of getting funds from the City was discussed. Someone will check with Del Pepper on grants. The question was raised if the City has discretionary funds and if we can get trophies with that funding. It was also asked if donated money can go into a DCHS donation account. **Action Item: Debra Evans will contact the DCHS Fiscal Office about a donation account. Action Item: Debbie will ask Kate Garvey, DCHS Director about funding. They will put together a proposal. It was suggested that the Commission will have DCHS communications create the flyer and solicit donations from restaurants by June 27th.**

#### **7. REPORT OUTS FROM SUBCOMMITTEES & COMMISSION LIAISONS**

- *Affordable Housing & Transportation* –Currently awaiting the equity tool communication kit to come online and the downloadable form. There is an initiative called Zoning for All over the Summer. All were encouraged to fill out the questionnaire. **Action Item: Commissioner Jiang is actively seeking what they have accomplished thus far.**
- *DASH Representative Report Out* – Thanks to everyone who filled out the feedback form. The buses will benefit from the grant. The transit advisory subcommittee was put a halt to – their project is on the docket.
- *Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault & Human Trafficking*: The Commission wants to work with DV/SA on contributing to Domestic Violence Awareness Month (DVAM). DV/SA will give out bookmarks that

have information about DV. The bookmark has all NoVA and DC resources. They will pass out information to individuals at Metro stations. The Commission will partner for the distribution of flyers at the Metro. Commissioner Wetmore reached out to the Alexandria Mentor Partnership.

**Action Item: The Domestic Violence Interdiction Project (DVIP) is looking into having the Silent Witness Vigil October 2023.**

- Reproductive Rights – Last Thursday, the Virginia Post Dobbs webinar Thanks were extended to those who joined and supported. There were over 100 people who signed up; around 50 people attended. The recording is on the website. Thank you notes have gone out to everyone on the panel. **Action Item: Debra Evans will get the email addresses for attendees.**
- Commissioner/City Council Engagement: None.
- Commission on Aging: Commissioner Stowe attended the meeting virtually.
- Human Rights (HR) Commission: The Human Rights Commission met May 16, 2023, with guest speaker Kim Cadeena, Office on Housing, who provided information on the Federal Housing Plan. The last report with Sheriff Casey will be online via HR Commission's website and look at it. They will meet on the 2nd Saturday at Alive! LGBTQ had a charcoal drawing event, June 3rd, which was a success. Councilman Kirk worked with the HR Commission. They are in the process of doing a permanent display for PRIDE. At the next meeting they will elect new officers. It was suggested to have Ms. Cadeena speak in September 2023. **Action Item: Commissioner Palmer Johnson will invite her to speak at one of the Commission for Women meetings.**
- HIV/AIDS Commission – The HIV/AIDS Commission is getting stronger numbers. *Hoops in Virginia* will be taking place, tickets are \$30 for their 3-on-3 basketball tournament at the Charles Houston Rec Center to promote HIV testing, September 24th. They are looking to have engaging nights throughout the year where they go to Carpenter's Shelter and the DV Safe House. They will bring diapers.
- DVP/SAC Wishlist - [https://www.target.com/gift-registry/gift-giver?registryId=6bcf0c70-bc6c-11eb-9092-54ed1d7afa55&lnk=registry\\_custom\\_url&type=CHARITY](https://www.target.com/gift-registry/gift-giver?registryId=6bcf0c70-bc6c-11eb-9092-54ed1d7afa55&lnk=registry_custom_url&type=CHARITY)

It was asked if there were any other volunteer opportunities that the Commission can do at the Safe House and it was suggested that they can help clean/organize the house, tutor children. **Action Item: Debra Evans will provide a list of dates that they can use the Commission's help. The Safe House always collects gift cards. Tax receipts are emailed.**

A logo for the Commission for Women was discussed. DCHS Communications can assist with the creation of the logo.

**Next Steps/Adjournment**

Chair Kramer adjourned the meeting at 8:10 p.m. until August 19, 2023 (Retreat).

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