

Maryland Commission for Women

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, January 18, 2018

5 p.m.

Attman-Glazer Building – Room 158

45 Calvert Street, Annapolis, Maryland

Commissioners Attending:	
Lee Bachu, Chair	Tamara England Wilson
A. Diane Williams, Vice Chair	Yun Jung Yang
Wandra Ashley-Williams, Secretary	
Homayara Aziz	Commissioners Absent:
Tawanda Bailey	Marianne Brackney
Deborah Cartee	Tammy Bresnahan
Gloria Chang	April Nyman
Lorna Forde	Anita Riley
Nicole Ingram T/C	Ummu Bradley Thomas
Velvet Johnson	Marylou Yam
Bonnie Luna	
Marion Manski	Staff Attending:
Carole Sepe	Judith Vaughan-Prather, Executive Director
Corinna Shen	Tammy Wise, Management Associate

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

The meeting was called to order at 5:07 p.m. by MCW Chair Bachu who welcomed those in attendance and wished everyone a happy new year. She noted that, although the MCW itself has not met as a whole since November, its committees have been hard at work in the interim.

A. Approval of Agenda

Chair Bachu called for approval of the agenda for tonight’s meeting. It was noted that Commissioner Cartee would report for Health and Wellness Committee Chair Yam, as well as for Hall of Fame Committee Chair Brackney, both of whom had to be absent this evening. Commissioner Forde moved approval of the agenda as amended. The motion, seconded by Commission Vice Chair Williams, passed unanimously.

B. Approval of Minutes:

Chair Bachu called for approval of the minutes of the November 2017 MCW meeting. Commissioner Yang so moved. Commissioner Wilson seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

II. Chair’s Report.....Chair Bachu

A. 2018 Women’s Legislative Briefing

The Women’s Legislative Briefing will be held January 28 at the Universities at Shady Grove. Chair Bachu, Vice Chair Williams and Executive Director Vaughan-Prather will attend as the MCW’s representatives included in its Community Organization sponsorship. Management Associate Wise will attend to help staff the MCW exhibit at the event. Commissioners Bresnahan and Aziz are participating as speakers in seminars at the event. Commissioner Forde is also president of the Montgomery County Commission for Women so she will be there as well. The MCW will have a robust participation with seven representatives there.

B. MCASA Reception

The annual legislative reception of the Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault is this evening in Annapolis. Because of the coincidence of dates, no commissioners are able to attend.

C. Friends of the Maryland Commission for Women TV Show

The MCW received an invitation from a FMCW Board member to participate in a cable TV show she is producing “for the FMCW.” The MCW thanked her for the invitation but declined noting that the FMCW has been asked to change its name eliminating the MCW from its title and that until that happens, the MCW cannot participate in joint ventures with that organization. It was noted that independent programming such as this by the FMCW is exactly why the name change was requested as such a program will appear for all intents and purposes to be a program of the MCW when in fact, it is not.

III. Unfinished Business

No unfinished business was brought before the MCW.

IV. New Business

Million Women Mentors

A representative of this new organization contacted the MCW office asking for an opportunity to brief the MCW on its mission and to look for opportunities for partnership. MWM is an initiative of STEMconnector, and describes itself as “a national movement which supports the engagement of one million STEM mentors (male and female) to increase the number of girls and women from school-age to work-age continuum to persist and succeed in STEM programs and careers by the year 2019.” Staff was asked to invite MWM to the MCW’s April or May meeting.

V. Committee Reports

A. Hall of Fame.....Commissioner Cartee for Brackney

MCW received 17 nominations of outstanding women for induction into the Maryland Women's Hall of Fame for 2018. An independent Selection Committee was made up of volunteers from five state-wide organizations:

- Linda Mahoney, Maryland Women's Heritage Center Board of Directors
- Delegate Jheanelle Wilkins, Women of the Maryland General Assembly
- Sheila Woodard, Maryland Women's Business Center Board of Directors
- Theresa Foster, President of BPW/MD, and
- Eileen Menton, President of AAUW Maryland

The committee reviewed all the nominations and made the very difficult decision of whom to induct. The five extraordinary women selected for induction this year are:

- Sandra I. Barnes Esq. - Assistant Maryland Attorney General (Baltimore County)
- Dr. Sandra Williams Ortega - Maryland's First African American Women Commissioned U.S. Air Force Officer (Formerly of Baltimore)
- Emily Saunders Plummer - Courageous Enslaved Woman, Inspiring Mother (Posthumous, formerly of Prince George's County)
- Dr. Rita L. Robinson - Educator, Community Leader (Prince George's County)
- Dr. Hattie N. Washington - Educator, Founder of Aunt Hattie's Place (Anne Arundel County)

Many thanks to Chair Bachu for making meeting space available in her office for the Selection Committee meeting on December 18, 2017. Letters to all the nominees and nominators went out on December 19, letting them know the results and inviting them to the ceremony.

The HOF Committee will start meeting jointly with the Women of Tomorrow Committee very soon to begin planning the Induction/Awards Ceremony scheduled for March 15. A joint committee meeting/call is scheduled on Tuesday, January 30 at 4 p.m. with all committee members.

B. Women of Tomorrow.....Commissioners Sepe and Forde

The call for nominations for the WOT was issued on October 16, 2017. The Selection Committee met on January 5 in Chair Bachu's office to determine which of the 73 nominees will receive the award this year. The Selection Committee included:

- Violent Apple, CEO, Girl Scouts of Central Maryland
- Michele Siri, Executive Director, Women's Law Center of Maryland
- Delegate Marice Morales, Women of the Maryland General Assembly
- Debra Franklin, Dean, School of Arts, Sciences and Business, and Dean, Academic Enrichment Programs, Notre Dame of Maryland University
- Shelly Gross-Wade, Board of Directors, Maryland Women's Business Center

Five young women – one in middle school, and four high school students were selected to receive the Women of Tomorrow Award. They represent Anne Arundel County, Montgomery County, Howard County, Queen Anne's County and Frederick County.

Chair Bachu thanked the members of both the Hall of Fame and the Women of Tomorrow Committees for all their hard work so far, and noted her appreciation for the members of the two Selection Committees who performed so very well the important and difficult task of determining this year's honorees.

C. Listening Tour.....Commissioners Yang and Ingram

Commission Chair Bachu, Committee Co-Chair Yang and Executive Director Vaughan-Prather were invited to brief the Women Legislators of Maryland on December 11, with a presentation on the Voices of Maryland Women Listening Tour so far.

Commissioner Wilson reported that at the Listening Tour session in Baltimore City, Councilwoman Middleton committed to re-establishing the Baltimore City Commission for Women. We recently learned that the city is advertising for applicants for appointment to the CFW, and Commissioner Wilson was encouraged to apply. Commissioner Yang noted that this is a very positive outcome of the Listening Tour and thanked Commissioner Wilson for helping make the arrangements for the session in Baltimore City and for serving as the liaison with the City Councilwoman's office.

Chair Bachu congratulated the commissioners, especially the Listening Tour Committee and specifically Commissioner Wilson on the success of this initiative.

D. Education and Outreach.....Commissioner Bailey

The committee is working with the Listening Tour Committee to plan a conference on June 2. All the CFWs in the state and other organizations who hosted sessions of the Listening Tour will be invited. Commissioner Wilson and MCW staff met earlier this week with staff at Notre Dame of Maryland University to discuss the possibility of holding the conference there, in Doyle Hall. MCW approved \$1300 for this conference at its planning meeting last June.

The Committee has continued to send out issue alerts to the MCW's distribution lists.

In addition, Commissioner Johnson has been representing the MCW at steering meetings for the Women Moving Forward Conference at the Maryland Correctional Institute for Women (MCIW). She reported that the steering committee has met twice, and has invited Kimba Smith to be the keynote speaker at this year's conference. Ms. Smith was sentenced to 24 years in prison for drug trafficking and has since become an advocate against mandatory sentencing. The WMF conference will be held on Saturday, April 14 at MCIW. Volunteers are asked to commit to working the entire conference. Commissioner Ashley-Williams noted that the conference participants are preparing to re-enter the community and this conference is an important part of that process.

E. Legislation and Public Policy

Committee Chair Bresnahan is sick and unable to attend this meeting. She prepared testimony for the MCW on the Rape Survivors Family Protection Act and delivered it to the hearings of both the House and Senate Committees earlier this week and last week.

F. Public Relations and Communications.....Commissioner Aziz

No report.

G. Health and Wellness.....Commissioner Cartee for Yam

Commissioner Yam is traveling and sent her regrets that she could not attend tonight's meeting. Commissioner Cartee reported that January is National Human Trafficking Awareness month. The Committee's volunteer Bev Thoms drafted an extended section on this issue for the MCW's Online Women's Health Information and Resource Directory, and a health alert was issued. An extended section on Women and Opioid Addiction is also being developed. The Committee issued health alerts in December on Women and Holiday Stress, and on National Cancer Screening Week.

VI. Liaison Reports

- A. Maryland Women’s Heritage Center..... Chair Bachu**
The Heritage Center Board meets this Saturday but Chair Bachu will be traveling. No other commissioners were available to attend the meeting in her place.
- B. 19th Amendment Commemoration Commission.....Vice Chair Williams**
The Commission to Commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the Passage of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution met on January 16 in Annapolis. A guest speaker briefed the commission on the Maryland Women’s Suffrage Movement. The committee then went into the Maryland General Assembly where Del. Klausmeier introduced them. The Commission is planning to install an historic marker in Hyattsville in March.
- C. MLAW.....Commissioner Ashley-Williams**
MLAW held its fall conference on November 18, 2017 to hear proposals for its legislative agenda for this year. Members were invited to vote and the 2018 legislative agenda has been set. Individuals and organizations are now invited to sign on. MLAW has already begun testifying on some of the bills it supports in Annapolis. MLAW’s annual legislative briefing and reception is scheduled for Thursday, January 8 at 4:30 p.m. in the House Office Building in Annapolis. Vice Chair Williams asked that photos from the MLAW Fall Conference be posted on the MCW Facebook page.

In December, the MCW held a vote, via email, on the MLAW priorities for the upcoming session of the Maryland General Assembly. There were 19 bills on the “ballot” and members were asked to rank them in priority order. Commissioner Bresnahan submitted a proposed ranking. The electronic vote was 13 in favor, with two opposed. Commissioner Ashley-Williams moved that the electronic vote be ratified at this evening’s meeting. The motion, seconded by Commissioner Wilson, passed with 11 in favor and 4 opposed.
- D. FAMLI Task Force.....Executive Director Vaughan-Prather**
The Family and Medical Leave Insurance Task Force submitted its final report to the Maryland General Assembly in December. A copy will be on file in the MCW office.
- E. Zonta Human Trafficking Symposium.....Commissioner Yam**
No report.
- F. WAG Foundation.....Commissioner Yang**
The Board of Directors held its first official meeting on December 13, 2017 in Annapolis. It has set up an email account and has already raised \$15,000 in private donations. Commissioner Shen has been responsible for engendering much of that generosity. Each board member is responsible for developing or donating at least \$1000 per year, but Commissioner Shen has far exceeded that fundraising goal. WAG has applied for its federal 501(c)(3) certification and has prepared a fund-raising packet for the Hall of Fame/Women of Tomorrow Ceremony. Vice Chair Williams reminded Commissioner Yang that she asked that copies of the WAG bylaws and articles of incorporation be sent to all the commissioners. Commissioner Cartee asked that copies of the fund-raising packet be sent to commissioners as well. The Commissioners congratulated Commissioners Yang, Nyman, Shen and Thomas for the successful start up of the Foundation.

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

A. MCW Brochure Update

The MCW brochure has been updated and is being reprinted for distribution at the Women’s Legislative Briefing. The MCW high school intern has been updating the documents on “Who We Represent” and “STEM Resources.” It is hoped that those can also be available for the Briefing.

B. MCW History Project

The MCW high school student intern is also working on a chronology of the MCW’s work and accomplishments over the past 45 years.

VIII. Announcements

The next MCW meeting is February 15.

IX. Adjournment.....Chair Bachu

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

Respectfully submitted

Judith Vaughan-Prather, Executive Director
Maryland Commission for Women

APPROVED: February 16, 2018