

Maryland Commission for Women

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, October 20, 2016

5 – 7 p.m.

Attman-Glazer Building – Room 164 ♦ 45 Calvert Street, Annapolis, Maryland

Commissioners Attending:

Lee Bachu, Chair
Wandra Ashley-Williams, Secretary T/C
Homayara Aziz
Tawanda Bailey – T/C
Tammy Bresnahan
Deborah Cartee
Gloria Chang
Nicole Ingram
Velvet Johnson
Bonnie Nelson Luna
Marion Manski
April Nyman
Anita Riley
Carole Jaar Sepe
Corinna Shen T/C

Ummu Thomas T/C
A. Diane Williams, Vice Chair T/C
Tamara England Wilson
Marylou Yam
Yun Jung Yang

Commissioners Absent:

Marianne Brackney
Lorna Forde
Doris Ligon
Betsy Ramirez

Staff Attending:

Judith Vaughan-Prather, Executive Director
Tammy Wise, Management Associate
Nighina Azizov, Professional Fellow

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

A. Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 5 p.m. Chair Bachu welcomed everyone and thanked all for attending.

B. Approval of Agenda/Minutes:

Chair Bachu called for approval of agenda for this evening’s meeting. Commissioner Yang moved approval of the agenda. Commissioner Sepe seconded the motion which passed unanimously. Chair Bachu called for approval of the minutes of the September 22, 2016 MCW meeting. Commissioner Yang moved approval of the minutes as submitted. Commissioner Nyman seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

II. Chair’s Report..... Chair Bachu

A. WE3 Conference.....Vice Chair A. Diane Williams

Vice Chair Williams reported on the WE3 Conference, sponsored by the Prince George’s County Commission for Women. The MCW sponsored this conference; Chair Bachu and Vice Chair Williams attended the awards reception on Friday, September 23, where Vice Chair Williams received a Legacy Leadership Award. Vice Chair Williams also spoke to the audience about the MCW’s Voices of Maryland Women Listening

Tour. Vice Chair Williams commended Management Associate Wise for the outstanding services she provided on Friday evening creating and staffing an exhibit table for the MCW including the “Talk to Us” questionnaires. The next day, a public forum on education issues was convened. The remainder of the conference, which was to be a full day on Saturday, September 24 was rescheduled to December 10. Commissioners Bailey and Thomas are registered for that part of the conference. MCW Chair Bachu congratulated Vice Chair Williams on the award.

B. CFW Roundtable Meeting at MLAW Conference.....Commissioner Bailey

So far, there are 24 commissioners and staff, representing 9 of the 14 Commissions for Women in the state, registered to attend the MLAW Fall Conference and the CFW Roundtable Meeting on October 22 at the Anne Arundel Community College. In addition to the MCW’s sponsorship, which included attendance for all these individuals, Vice Chair Williams’ business, Christol Salon and Spa, contributed a \$100 sponsorship of the conference in support of the CFW Roundtable Meeting.

C. November MCW Meeting in Calvert County

The Calvert County session of the Listening Tour will be held in Prince Frederick – the Calvert County seat – at the College of Southern Maryland on Thursday, November 17, 7 – 9 p.m. Chair Bachu announced that the MCW will hold a very brief business meeting at 6 p.m. on that date, at the same location. She encouraged all commissioners to attend and to stay for the Listening Tour session.

III. Unfinished Business

A. Criteria for MCW Engagement Secretary Ashley-Williams

The committee working on this issue met to develop proposed policies and procedures for MCW sponsorship of events. Secretary Williams reviewed the proposal. Vice Chair Williams recommended that any new sponsorship requests be decided upon by the Commission. A copy of the proposed policy will be sent to the full Commission for review, consideration and a vote at the next meeting.

B. Women in the NAACP Event..... Secretary Ashley-Williams

The Maryland State Conference NAACP is hosting, for the first time, the NAACP WIN Breakfast during its annual meeting, October 28 and 29. The purpose of the NAACP WIN program is “to enhance the leadership role of women; serve as an advocacy vehicle for social, economic, political, educational, and health and welfare issues affecting women, girls and children; and to support the ongoing work of the NAACP and its units. The MCW was invited to sponsor the WIN Breakfast event for \$200 which includes attendance for 10 individuals. Commissioners Ashley-Williams, Thomas, Ingram, Bachu, Yang and Wilson plan to attend as representatives of the MCW.

C. Maryland Correctional Institute for Women.....Commissioner Bailey

At last month’s meeting, the MCW approved sending a letter to the Secretary of Public Safety and Correctional Services asking for a study of the conditions of the women incarcerated at the MCIW. The letter was sent, with a copy in the packets for tonight’s meeting.

IV. New Business

No new business was brought before the Commission.

V. Committee Reports/Presentation of Work Plans

At the June planning meeting, each committee was asked to convene over the summer and present its proposed work plan for the program year to the MCW at tonight’s meeting.

A. Listening Tour..... Commissioners Ingram and Yang

Since the September MCW meeting, two more public forums have been held. One was hosted by Notre Dame of Maryland University as part of the Women of the World Festival held on its campus, Friday October 7. It was a wonderful forum with very enthusiastic and articulate participation. The very next day, the Listening Tour went to Ellicott City for a forum hosted by the Howard County CFW. It was a very good event with an audience of 36 very committed individuals who presented interesting and compelling testimony about the needs of women. Commissioner Yang noted that each forum is unique in some way. The hosting CFWs and especially the attendees seem to really appreciate being listened to. Next week, the Listening Tour travels to the Prince George’s County Community College in Largo. The Prince George’s County CFW has been working hard to make this event a success. Commissioners Yang and Ingram thanked all the commissioners for their support for this initiative.

B. Hall of Fame.....Ex. Dir. Vaughan-Prather for Commissioner Brackney

The date and location of the induction and awards ceremony for both the Hall of Fame and the Women of Tomorrow has been confirmed: Thursday, March 16 at the Miller Senate Office Building in Annapolis. The Call for Nominations for the Hall of Fame was issued September 29. The original October 28 due date for receipt of nominations was extended to November 16 at 5 p.m.

C. Women of Tomorrow.....Commissioner Sepe

The Women of Tomorrow Call for Nominations was issued October 15 with a due date of December 2. The committee is identifying the members of the Selection Committee and extending invitation. Both the Hall of Fame and the Women of Tomorrow Committees have begun planning the ceremony and hope to take advantage of all the time spent planning last year’s event by using the same caterer, etc.

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

The Women Moving Forward Conference Steering Committee has invited the MCW to participate in the planning of the 2017 conference to be held at the MCIW. Commissioner Bailey will represent the MCW on the steering committee for this event.

E. Legislation and Public Policy..... Commissioner Bresnahan

Planning for the 2016 Women’s Legislative Briefing, coordinated by the Montgomery County CFW, has begun. The MCW needs to identify a representative to attend the planning meetings, held at the White Oak Community and Recreation Center. The staff was asked to send all the commissioners the information about the planning meetings.

F. Communications and Public Relations

No report. Several commissioners asked for a conference call of the committee to be scheduled to discuss the MCW Facebook page.

G. Health and Wellness.....Commissioner Yam
The Committee met by conference call in July to establish its goals for this year, which include: review the MCW’s online health resources directory, develop strategies for making it more accessible, and develop new areas of information not currently addressed. The Committee is meeting again this evening. It plans to send monthly “fact sheets” on women’s health issues to the MCW’s distribution lists, and will develop new sections of the resource directory addressing addictions, medicines, and other issues.

H. Policy and Bylaws.....Commissioner Manski
This committee is scheduled to meet October 24 via conference call at 7 p.m. It plans to conduct a thorough review of the MCW Bylaws, article by article, including a review of the MCW’s enabling legislation to develop proposals that ensure congruency and to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of the MCW operations.

VI. Liaison Reports

A. Maryland Women’s Heritage Center..... Chair Bachu
The Center is planning an event in March to celebrate the expansion of its exhibit of the Maryland Women’s Hall of Fame.

B. MLAW.....Chair Bachu and Secretary Ashley-Williams
The MLAW Fall Conference is this weekend, October 22. At this conference, legislators and advocates are invited to present legislative proposals and issues they hope MLAW will include on the Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women. Commissioners Bachu, Chang, Williams, Bailey, Ingram, Yang, Thomas, and Riley plan to attend, along with the MCW staff.

VII. Staff Report.....Vaughan-Prather

A. Professional Fellow – Nighina Azizov
Nighina Azizov was introduced to the Commissioners. She will work in the MCW office, full time, October 17 – November 11. Her fellowship is arranged by the American Councils for International Education through the citizen diplomacy programs of the U.S. Department of State. Nighina is from Moldova where she is the Chief of Staff to the Deputy Speaker of Parliament. She has already made herself invaluable in the MCW office, working on several projects.

B. Annual Report
The report is completely written and has been sent to the print shop. It should be ready before the November MCW meeting and has already been posted on the MCW website.

VIII. Adjournment.....Lee Bachu, Chair
MCW Chair Bachu called for any announcements. None were put forward. She thanked everyone for attending this evening’s meeting and for all their hard work. There being no further business, she adjourned the meeting at 6:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:
Judith Vaughan-Prather, Executive Director
Maryland Commission for Women
January 16, 2017

APPROVED: January 19, 2016