

Maryland Commission for Women

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, April 18, 2019

5 p.m.

45 Calvert Street, Annapolis, MD

Commissioners Attending:

Yun Jung Yang, Chair
Tawanda Bailey, First Vice Chair
Carole Jaar Sepe, Second Vice Chair T/C
Tammy Bresnahan
Deborah Cartee
Gloria Chang
Melissa Curtin
Eugenia Henry T/C
Lauren Lambert
Bonnie Luna
Ishrat Memon
April Nyman
Roberta Pardo
Corinna Shen
Evelyne Steward T/C
Marylou Yam T/C

Commissioners Absent:

Homayara Aziz
Lee Bachu
Maureen Colburn
Amanda Costley
Brenda McChriston T/C
Ummu Bradley Thomas
Tamara England Wilson

Staff Attending:

Judith Vaughan-Prather, Executive Director
Tammy Wise, Management Associate

I. Call to Order.....Yang

A. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:14 p.m. by MCW Chair Yang. She called for approval of the agenda for tonight's meeting. Commissioner Nyman moved approval of the agenda. Commissioner Curtin seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

B. Approval of Minutes of the February 21, 2019 MCW Meeting

Commissioner Lambert moved approval of the minutes as submitted. The motion, seconded by Commissioner Bresnahan, passed unanimously.

II. Executive Committee Report.....Yang

A. Women's History Month Activities

In addition to the Maryland Women's Hall of Fame and Women of Tomorrow Awards Ceremony, Commissioners participated in a number of other events during March, 2019 Women's History Month, including:

- On March 8, International Women's Day, the MCW's three officers and staff met with a delegation of women from the Philippines, to discuss advocacy for women and girls

in the U.S. and the Philippines. The delegation was brought here by the World Trade Center Institute, International Visitor Leadership Program.

- On March 10, Commission Chair Yang was presented the “Shining Star Award” by Montgomery Women at its annual “Power Tea” event. Also attending were Commissioner Shen and the MCW Executive Director.
- On March 12, Commission First Vice Chair Tawanda Bailey joined the Frederick County Commission for Women in receiving a proclamation of Women’s History Month by Frederick County Executive Jan Gardner.
- On March 21, Governor Larry Hogan issued a proclamation of Women’s History Month in Maryland and presented it to the Commission for Women at the annual Women’s Hall of Fame/Women of Tomorrow Awards Ceremony.
- On March 31, MCW First and Second Vice Chairs Bailey and Sepe, along with Commissioners Bachu and Lambert attended the Women’s History Conference in Frederick. It was sponsored by Maryland NOW and the Maryland Women’s Heritage Center.

B. Status of Women in Maryland (SWIM) Project

At the February 21 Meeting, the MCW decided to initiate a research project to examine the status of women in the state and to seek funding to hire a researcher to conduct the data analysis and write the report with a goal to release the findings and recommendations at the 2020 Women’s Leadership Conference in August of that year. The Governor’s Office has agreed to make \$30,000 available for this purpose. The staff, in consultation with the MCW officers, has developed the solicitation for bids and is working with the DHS Procurement Office to find a qualified contractor. The MCW’s three officers will provide the leadership and oversight of this project.

C. June Planning Meeting

The MCW Bylaws provide that the Commission has two standing committees – Policy and Legislation (PAL Committee) and Achievement and Recognition Commemoration (ARC – Hall of Fame and Women of Tomorrow Awards), and that it may have in addition, two other initiatives. The MCW decided last June that the 2020 Conference would be one of those initiatives for the 2019 and 2020 program years. Last month, the Commission established the SWIM Project as a second major initiative. However, the Commission decided that it should still hold the special planning meeting to focus work on those two projects. Commissioners should mark their calendars for the June 20 meeting to begin at 3 p.m., location to be decided.

III. Unfinished Business

- A. NOW Women’s History Conference.....Bailey and Thomas**
Commission Vice Chairs Bailey and Sepe, along with Commissioner Bachu and Lambert attended the conference. They reported that it was excellent with several very good speakers.
- B. Filipino Delegation Meeting – reported earlier in tonight’s meeting.**

IV. New Business

- A. MCW Museum Visit Proposal.....Lambert**
Commissioner Lambert may be able to arrange a special visit for the Commission to the Museum of African American History in Washington D.C. She will determine which dates in May or June might be available and will see if Commissioners are able to attend.

B. GFCBW Delegation Meeting.....Shen
Commissioner Henry is the current chair of the Global Federation of Chinese Business Women and is bringing a delegation to the D.C. area, including Maryland, this month. They will meet with Maryland’s First Lady on April 29. A banquet is planned for the night before at 6:30 p.m. Commissioner Henry has invited all the Commissioners to attend as her guest. Commissioners Yam, Thomas and Yang have all accepted the invitation along with Chair Yang and the Executive Director. Other Commissioners are encouraged to let Commissioner Henry know if they would like to participate. In addition, Commissioner Shen is hosting a luncheon in Annapolis on April 29 at 11:30 at Harry Browne’s Restaurant. The Commission Chair and Executive Director will both attend. Commissioner Shen invited the commissioners to join her as her guests.

C. Proposed Cultural Exchange Visit to Taiwan.....Henry
Commissioner Henry is exploring the possibility of the MCW being invited to send a delegation to Taiwan for a cultural exchange program discussing women’s issues. Her hope is that the participants would pay only their roundtrip airfare from the U.S. to Taiwan, and that their hotel, meals and any in-country transportation would all be provided by the hosts (possibly the Taiwanese government). She asked the commissioners to indicate whether they were interested in such a possibility and 11 responded positively, including Commissioners Bailey, Bresnahan, Chang, Curtin, Lambert, Luna, Pardo, Sepe, Steward, Yam and Yang, along with Executive Director Vaughan-Prather. It was suggested that, if the trip becomes more certain, the DHS Secretary and Special Assistant liaison to the MCW also be invited.

D. AAUW Work Smart Project.....Vaughan-Prather
The MCW has been asked by AAUW (the American Association of University Women) to help with its outreach to Commissions for Women (CFW) in Maryland. AAUW Work Smart is a salary negotiation program designed to give women the skills and confidence to advocate for themselves in the workplace. Participants learn how to research competitive salaries, articulate their skills, qualifications and experience, and ask for – and get – the pay they deserve. AAUW will be invited to the next MCW meeting to present more about its project and how the MCW might partner with it in this initiative.

V. Committee Reports

A. PAL (Policy and Legislation) Committee.....Bresnahan
MCW supported seven legislative initiatives in the Maryland General Assembly this year. Six of these were cross-filed in both houses, meaning that the Commission submitted testimony in support of a total of 13 bills. A report of the outcomes was included in the packets for tonight’s meeting. Of those seven legislative initiatives, only one passed – the HIV Prevention for Rape Victims bill. One of the bills that failed would have required the Maryland Department of Corrections to provide incarcerated women with the same pre-release services provided to incarcerated men. Another bill was introduced requiring the Commissioner of Corrections to conduct a study of the services and submit a report. After considerable discussion, Commissioner Shen moved that if the same bills the MCW supported this year are introduced next year without substantial changes, the MCW will support them. Commissioner Pardo seconded the motion which, after discussion, passed unanimously.

B. 2020 Women’s Leadership Conference.....Henry
It is tentatively decided to schedule the conference for Wednesday, August 26, and to make it a one-day event whose target audience of about 200 women of Maryland. A registration fee will be charged with a significant discount for students. The goal will be to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the 19th amendment, to recognize accomplished women in our state and to provide leadership training, so the theme will be along the lines of “Celebrate, Commemorate and Educate.” Several candidates are under consideration for the keynote speaker. Commissioner Henry would like to include representatives from the GFCBW as well.

C. 2019 ARC (Achievement & Recognition Ceremony) Committee.....Cartee
Commissioner Cartee reviewed some of the things that worked really well and some of the things the MCW might want to change for next year’s events. She asked the commissioners who attended to all submit their suggestions and any other feedback to her via email. MCW Chair Yang noted that there had been some confusion regarding how the interviews of the Hall of Fame honorees were conducted. She said that something very positive has grown out of this and recommends that next year, if the video recorded interviews are conducted again, the Commissioner who hosts the honoree would also conduct the interview. Given the difficulty of accessing and sharing the recordings among the various commissioners who offered to produce the presentation about the event, and who all have different applications and platforms on their personal computers, Executive Director Vaughan-Prather recommended that a professional videographer be hired next year to record the event and create the program.

VI. Liaison Reports

A. Maryland Women’s Heritage Center.....Yang
No report.

19th Amendment Commemoration Commission
No report.

B. MLAW.....Curtin
As soon as it is ready, MLAW’s final report of its legislative activity this year will be shared with the commissioners.

C. Maryland WAG Foundation.....Shen
The WAG Foundation Board of Directors met this evening. WAG will work to develop funding for the 2020 conference. Commissioners Steward and Nyman are both members of the Board, and they have developed a fundraising proposal which was well received by the Board. The plan will allow individuals to “honor a woman (or women) in your life” with donations at differing levels.

D. Women Moving Forward Conference.....Curtin
The three-hour conference at the Maryland Correctional Institution for Women was held on Saturday, April 13 featuring round-table discussions with professional facilitators focusing on mental health issues. More than 200 MCIW residents signed up to attend but the conference could only accommodate 120. The participants were very receptive and responsive and seemed to very much appreciate every aspect of the conference. Commissioner Curtin said it was a very humbling experience and she was honored to serve on the steering committee for this event.

E. Maternal Mortality Review Stakeholders Group

No report.

F. Museum of Maryland Women’s History.....Cartee

No report.

G. Health Information Exchange (HIE) Policy Board

No report.

H. UMD SAFE Center

No report.

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

A. National Association of Commissions for Women (NACW)

NACW is planning a “mini conference” in Chicago this summer and will hold its larger conference in Loudon County, Virginia in the summer of 2020. Vaughan-Prather has been asked to co-chair a committee to re-launch the Voices of American Women Listening Project, and will present a seminar at the conference in Chicago.

B. DLLR RFP for Women and Opioids Workplace Initiative

A copy of the press release announcing the request for proposals (RFP) for this project was included in the packets for tonight’s meeting. A “quote” from Vaughan-Prather was included in the press release. The RFP has been shared with the MCW’s distribution lists and has been sent to all CFWs in our state.

C. Issue Alerts

So far this program year (July 1 – June 30), the office of the MCW has sent out 23 “issue alerts” on various women’s health and other issues, and has made 53 Facebook posts.

D. Commissioner Mileage

The Commission’s budget includes funds to reimburse commissioners for their travel to and from MCW meetings and other official MCW activities. Commissioners wishing to request reimbursement for mileage should contact the MCW office for the necessary forms.

VIII. Announcements

A. Business and Professional Women (BPW) Annual State Conference

BPW/MD is holding its 90th anniversary conference May 3 – 4 at the Sheraton BWI. More information is available at www.bpwmaryland.org.

B. The Maryland Museum of Women’s History Women’s Art Competition.

More information may be found at <https://mebefoundation.org>, or by calling 410-725-6782.

C. Maryland Museum of Women’s History Women in Agriculture

Hosted by the Maryland Museum of Women’s History, the festival will be held on July 14 in Centreville, MD. For more information contact mebefoundation@gmail.com.

D. Next Meeting Dates:

Executive Committee: May 9 at 4 p.m. and June 13 at 4 p.m. via conference calls
MCW Meeting: May 16 at 5 p.m. at 45 Calvert St. in Annapolis.

IX. Adjournment.....Yang
The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted
Judith Vaughan-Prather, Executive Director
Maryland Commission for Women

APPROVED: May 16, 2019