

Maryland Commission for Women

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, February 15, 2018

5 p.m.

Attman-Glazer Building – Room 158

45 Calvert Street, Annapolis, Maryland

Commissioners Attending:

Lee Bachu, Chair
A. Diane Williams, Vice Chair
Tawanda Bailey
Marianne Brackney
Tammy Bresnahan
Lorna Forde
Velvet Johnson
April Nyman
Anita Riley
Carole Sepe T/C
Ummu Bradley Thomas
Tamara England Wilson
Marylou Yam T/C
Yun Jung Yang

Commissioners Absent:

Wandra Ashley-Williams, Secretary
Homayara Aziz
Deborah Cartee
Gloria Chang
Nicole Ingram
Bonnie Luna
Marion Manski
Corinna Shen

Staff Attending:

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

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

The meeting was called to order at 5:03 p.m. by MCW Chair Bachu who welcomed those in attendance. She called for approval of the agenda for tonight's meeting. The staff noted several additional items, including a request for MCW participation in a television talk show, the Baltimore City CFW, Commissioner attendance reports and the February 19 Women's Rally in Annapolis. Commissioner Yang moved approval of the agenda as amended. The motion, seconded by Commissioner Riley, passed unanimously.

Chair Bachu called for approval of the minutes of the January 18, 2018 MCW meeting. Commissioner Nyman so moved. Commission Vice Chair Williams seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

II. Chair’s Report.....Chair Bachu

A. 2018 Women’s Legislative Briefing

The Women’s Legislative Briefing, held on January 28 at the Universities at Shady Grove, was a wonderful event and very well attended. The keynote speaker was Rosie Rios, former Secretary of the U.S. Treasury, and her speech was very well received. Chair Bachu participated in the pre-briefing Presidents Networking session, Vice Chair Williams also represented the MCW at the Briefing. Commissioners Aziz and Bresnahan both participated as panelists in the Women’s Health seminar. Executive Director Vaughan-Prather and Management Associate Wise created and staffed the MCW’s exhibit booth. Commissioner Aziz also helped staff the booth for part of the day. Chair Bachu congratulated Commissioner Forde, who is also the President of the Montgomery County Commission for Women, for the excellent job that commission did organizing the Briefing.

B. MLAW Briefing and Reception

The annual briefing and reception of the Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women was February 8 in the Miller Senate Office Building in Annapolis. Chair Bachu, Vice Chair Williams, Commissioner Riley and MCW staff Vaughan-Prather and Wise attended.

C. Comcast Newsmakers Interview

Chair Bachu has been invited to participate in a short interview about the work of the Commission for Women on the Comcast Newsmakers show to be aired during Women’s History Month. The producer of the show is also interested in interviewing this year’s honorees for the Hall of Fame.

D. Women at the Table TV Show

The producer of this show was advised, as the MCW decided during last month’s meeting, that the MCW cannot participate in the show, as her invitation indicated that she was producing the show “for the FMCW.” She has responded that the show belongs to her and that she produces it independently, and airs it on YouTube. She would still like the MCW to participate and sent a link to the first show. It was a wide-ranging panel discussion on a number of women’s issues. The staff was asked to send that link to the Commissioners so that they may make an informed decision on whether this is something in which the MCW can participate. Staff was also asked to inquire whether DHS Communications staff can create a video of the March 15 Hall of Fame/Women of Tomorrow Awards ceremony.

III. Unfinished Business

A. Million Women Mentors

The Million Women Mentors organization will send a representative to brief the MCW on the MWM activities at the MCW’s May 17 meeting.

B. New Baltimore City Commission for Women

Last month, the MCW learned that Baltimore City Councilwoman Sharon Green Middleton has taken action, inspired by the Voices of Maryland Women Listening Tour, to re-establish the Baltimore City Commission for Women. Vice Chair Williams moved that the MCW write a letter of commendation to the Councilwoman. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

IV. New Business

A. MCW Officer Elections

Vice Chair Williams noted that all three MCW officer positions are two year terms and all three are up for election at the MCW’s June meeting.

V. Committee Reports

A. Hall of Fame/Women of Tomorrow Ceremony...Commissioners Brackney, Forde, Sepe

The two committees held a joint conference call earlier this week. Thanks to the Maryland WAG Foundation – The Fund for Maryland’s Women and Girls, Inc., funds are being raised to support the program. The Committee just learned today that PNC Bank will be a major sponsor again this year. Registration is going very well with more than 160 people already, and still a month to go before the program. In past years, the registration has been capped at 250, expecting about 200 to actually attend. The committees decided to raise that cap to at least 275 for now. Commissioner Brackney suggested the need for volunteers to help at the registration table so that all commissioners may be inside the room during the ceremony. The ceremony task list will be sent to all commissioners so they may sign up for necessary duties. We have also been informed that both the First Lady Yumi Hogan and DHS Secretary Lourdes Padilla will attend. It was moved and seconded that flowers be purchased for those two dignitaries and for the program’s mistress of ceremonies. The motion passed.

B. Listening Tour.....Commissioner Yang

Work on the data analysis and writing of the report of the Listening Tour has been on hold while resources have been focused on the Hall of Fame and Women of Tomorrow programs. There were 19 sessions of the Listening Tour around the state and more than 1000 responses to the on-line survey – in four languages. Now the legislature is in full session, and the Policy and Legislation Committee needs attention and time. Completion of the report has necessarily been placed “on the back burner” while the work on these other two Committees has had to take priority.

C. Education and Outreach.....Commissioners Bailey and Wilson

Four new Issue Alerts have been issued since the last MCW meeting, including two regarding women in the Hall of Fame, in celebration of Black History Month, one announcing the 19th Amendment Commission’s plans to unveil the historic marker on March 3, and one announcing the upcoming Hall of Fame/Women of Tomorrow Awards Ceremony.

The Committee has been working toward a June 2 date for the CFW Roundtable Conference to publicly release the report of the Voices of Maryland Women Listening Tour. However, it is realizing that it will be difficult to have the report ready for publication by that date. The Listening Tour Committee and the Education and Outreach have discussed the plans and recommend jointly to the Commission that the conference be held later in the summer to provide sufficient time to analyze the data, develop the findings and recommendations and develop a report of which the Commission will be proud. Commission Chair Bachu said that she was very disappointed in this position, as she had hoped that the project, which was initiated during her term as chair, would also be concluded during her term as chair. Her leadership of the MCW during this time will definitely be recognized. After discussion, Commissioner Thomas moved that the date of the publication of the report and the conference be delayed until August. The motion, seconded by Commissioner Bresnahan passed unanimously.

Commissioner Johnson announced that a Facebook page has been set up for the Women Moving Forward Conference at the Maryland Correctional Institute for Women (MCIW). Commissioner Bailey reported that a conference call to plan the conference seminars was held on February 11 and a conference call of the full planning committee was held on the 13th. The WMF planning committee is developing the schedule of seminars to focus more on both finance and budgeting and on technology. The conference will be held on Saturday, April 14 at MCIW. Volunteers other than seminar panelists are asked to commit to working the entire conference.

D. Policy and Legislation.....Commissioner Bresnahan

The Maryland General Assembly is in full swing and has over 4000 bills under consideration. The MCW has already taken positions in support of three bills:

- HB 1/SB 2 – the Rape Survivor Family Protection Act which has the support of the Governor and has already passed. It is now awaiting the Governor’s signature.
- HB 1109 - Discrimination in Employment – conditions Related to Childbirth. A hearing on this bill is set for February 27 in the House Economic Matters Committee
- HB 908/SB 271 – Health Insurance Coverage of Fertility Preservation Procedures for Iatrogenic Infertility. A hearing is scheduled for February 22 in the Health and Government Operations Committee.

The PAL Committee reviewed a number of other bills and recommended the following to the MCW for its support this year:

- HB 1303/SB 491 – Final Permanent Protective Order, scheduled for a hearing in the House Judiciary Committee on March 1. The hearing in the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee was held February 8.
- HB 353/SB 298 – Repeat Sexual Predator Prevention Act: Hearings were held in the House Judiciary Committee on January 30 and in the Senate Judicial Proceedings on February 7. Final action on this legislation is still pending, so the MCW can still send its testimony in support.
- HB 797/SB 598 – Correctional Services – Inmates – Menstrual Hygiene Products: Hearings were held on February 13 in the House Judiciary Committee on February 15 and in the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee on February 13. Final action on this legislation is still pending, so the MCW can still send its testimony in support.

Commissioner Yang moved that the MCW add these three bills to the list of legislation the MCW will support this year. Commissioner Bailey seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Commission Vice Chair Williams recommended that, in the future, the proposal on whether to sign onto the MLAW Agenda be presented to the MCW in time for it to make the decision before the due date. This year, although the MCW is a member of MLAW, it did not officially sign onto the MLAW Agenda.

E. Public Relations and Communications.....Commissioner Aziz

No report.

- F. Health and Wellness.....Commissioner Yam**
The Committee has issued three Women’s Health Alerts since the last MCW meeting:
American Heart Health Month on February 2, Thyroid Awareness Month on January 26, and
Cervical Health Awareness Month on January 25.

VI. Liaison Reports

- A. Maryland Women’s Heritage Center..... Chair Bachu**
The Heritage Center has been informed that it will receive a substantial bequest which should
help with its search for a new location and staffing support.

- B. 19th Amendment Commemoration Commission.....Vice Chair Williams**
The Commission is planning to install an historic marker in Hyattsville on Saturday, March
3, commemorating the women’s suffrage march from New York to Washington D.C. in
1913, which passed by the location where the marker will be installed.

- C. MLAW**
This item having been discussed earlier in the meeting, there was no further report.

- D. Zonta Human Trafficking Symposium.....Commissioner Yam**
The conference is planned for Saturday, April 21 from 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., at the Laurel
Branch Library in Laurel. It will be entitled “Moving from Awareness to Action,” and will
include speakers from law enforcement, service providers, advocates and victims.
Commissioner Yam encouraged commissioners to send her recommendations for potential
speakers.

- E. WAG Foundation.....Commissioner Yang**
The Foundation received its 501(c)(3) non-profit designation from the IRS. It is working on
the development of a website, hoping to “go live” by March 15.

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

- A. Professional Fellows Program**
The MCW’s 2016 Professional Fellow, Nighina Azizov, has been nominated for the
Professional Fellows Alumni Impact Award. If she wins, she will return to the U.S. to meet
with the current year’s fellows. The MCW has been invited to host a professional fellow
from the Republic of Azerbaijan for four weeks in April/May of this year.

- B. Updated Fact and Resource Documents**
The MCW high school student intern has completed work updating the “Who We Represent”
fact sheet with statistics about women and girls in Maryland, and the STEM Resources list.
Both were printed and available at the MCW exhibit booth at the Women’s Legislative
Briefing, where they were popular items for visitors to pick up.

- C. Commissioner Attendance Reports**
Each year, the staff is required to submit meeting attendance reports to the Governor’s
Appointments Office, and the staff was proud to note that no commissioners had problem
attendance records for calendar year 2017.

D. Maryland State Archives – Women of the Hall

The staff received a request through the Maryland State Archives (MSA) from a corporate official at the New York Power Authority. NYPA is considering naming a building after Edith Clarke (1883 – 1959), a 2003 inductee into the Maryland Women’s Hall of Fame, and she was hoping for help locating some of her descendents. Ms. Clarke was the first female electrical engineer in the U.S., and the first female professor of electrical engineering at the University of Texas at Austin. She specialized in electrical power system analysis and wrote Circuit Analysis of A-C Power Systems. Her family resided in Howard County. The director of the MSA said that the “Women of the Hall” portion of the MSA website is very well used and that hardly a week goes by without MSA receiving a request for permission to use information and resources from the biographies included in the Maryland Women’s Hall of Fame.

VIII. Announcements

A. WOW Festival.....Commissioner Yam

Commissioner Yam announced that the WOW (Women of the World) Festival will be held on Saturday, April 28 on the campus of Notre Dame of Maryland University. Tarana Burke, founder of the #MeToo Movement will be the keynote speaker.

B. Black History Month.....Commissioner Brackney

Commissioner Brackney noted for the record that February is Black History Month.

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: April 19, 2018