

Maryland Commission for Women

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, October 18, 2018

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
Tammy Bresnahan
Deborah Cartee
Gloria Chang
Maureen Colburn T/C
Amanda Costley
Bonnie Luna T/C
Ishrat Memon
Corinna Shen
Evelyne Steward
Ummu Bradley Thomas
Tamara England Wilson
Marylou Yam

Commissioners Absent:

Homayara Aziz
Lee Bachu
Melissa Curtin
Eugenia Henry
Lauren Lambert
Brenda McChriston
April Nyman
Roberta Pardo

Staff Attending:

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

Guest Speaker:

Amanda Rodriguez, UMD SAFE Center

I. Call to Order.....Chair Yang

The meeting was called to order at 5:08 p.m. by MCW Chair Yang who welcomed those in attendance. She called for approval of the agenda for tonight's meeting. Commissioner Thomas moved approval of the agenda, with the amendment that the meeting will begin with the Chair's Report, and when the speaker scheduled for this evening, who has been delayed by traffic, arrives, she will be asked to speak, and the other business of the Commission will continue after. Commissioner Wilson seconded the motion which passed unanimously. Chair Yang then called for approval of the minutes of the September 20 meeting. Commissioner Cartee moved approval of the agenda as submitted. The motion, seconded by Commissioner Memon, passed unanimously.

II. Chair's Report

A. Commissioner Resignation

Newly appointed Commissioner Patrisha Robinson has submitted her resignation from the MCW. She has taken a new position and plans to move out of state. Chair Yang expressed her appreciation for her four months of service on behalf of the women and girls of Maryland.

B. 2018 CFW Roundtable Conference

The MCW has received approval for the budget to hold the Commissions for Women Roundtable meeting at the November 17 conference of the Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women (MLAW) on the campus of Notre Dame of Maryland University in Baltimore. The MCW will invite each of the 15 county/city CFWs in the state to send a delegation of two commissioners, and the MCW will cover the cost of their attendance. Letters of invitation will be sent out this week requesting a commitment by November 1. MCW Commissioners are also encouraged to attend. It is hoped that the Maryland WAG Foundation will cover any costs that cannot be paid from the MCW’s budget.

**III. UMD SAFE Center for Human Trafficking Survivors.....Amanda Rodriguez
Chief Counsel for Policy & Legal Advocacy**

The University of Maryland SAFE Center for Human Trafficking Survivors is an initiative of the University of Maryland Strategic Partnership: MPowering the State. The University of Maryland Support, Advocacy, Freedom, and Empowerment (SAFE) Center for Human Trafficking Survivors is the first comprehensive, university-based direct services, research, and advocacy center on human trafficking. Its mission is to provide survivor-centered and trauma-informed services that empower trafficking survivors to heal and reclaim their lives, and to prevent trafficking and better serve survivors through research and policy advocacy. Ms. Rodriguez noted that there is a great need for legal services for victims of human trafficking. The victims are not just people from other countries, many are American citizens and many are children (approximately 50% of clients at the SAFE Center are children). Victims are often manipulated by their vulnerabilities, including addictions, previous abuse, threats of harm to their children, criminal records. Ms. Rodriguez hopes to build a network of comprehensive legal services throughout the state by identifying lawyers willing to provide “low bono” (discounted) legal services. The University of Baltimore Law School and the University of Maryland Law School are both helping. She proposed the possibility of collaborating with the Commission for Women to develop a state-wide network of attorneys for this purpose. Executive Director Vaughan-Prather suggested that Ms. Rodriguez be invited to speak at the November 17 CFW Roundtable Meeting where she could reach many of the county/city CFWs and ask for their help. MCW Chair Yang thanked Ms. Rodriguez for her compelling presentation. The MCW will discuss the proposal and respond to her later.

IV. Chair’s Report Continued

A. Maryland Women’s Business Center (MWBC) Event.....Memon

The MCW was invited to be a “promotional partner” for the Maryland Women’s Business Center’s annual awards luncheon. In exchange for helping to publicize the event by sending the announcement to our distribution lists, the MCW received a free admission for one to attend the event and the opportunity to display materials at the luncheon. Commissioner Memon agreed to represent the MCW at the October 17 event which she reported was attended by 150 entrepreneurs and 10 business women and was very interesting and well-organized. Chair Yang thanked Commissioner Memon for taking time away from her own business to represent the MCW there.

B. Women on Boards of Directors

In the packets for tonight’s meeting were two documents: one was a report recently released by the Executive Alliance documenting the underrepresentation of women on corporate boards of directors; the other was a law recently introduced in California to require better representation of women on such boards. Commissioner Bresnahan said that a similar law,

“Increasing Maryland’s Competitiveness through Gender Diversity in Boardrooms,” was introduced as a Senate and House Joint Resolution in the 2018 session of the Maryland General Assembly. The House bill was not voted out of Rules and the Senate bill died in Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee without a vote. It will be interesting to see if such legislation is introduced this year.

C. Maryland Women’s History Museum

In July, we learned of an initiative to establish a Museum of Maryland Women’s History in Centerville, in Queen Anne’s County. With very short notice, Commission Chair Yang and Executive Director Vaughan-Prather attended a small event to launch the project on July 20 at the Bloomfield Farm Park. Queen Anne’s County owns the land and the mansion that could be its crown jewel. The large home once belonged to Mary Edwardine Bourke Emory, who inherited it from her grandfather, and whose husband sold it later. She was so determined to regain the manor house that she wrote a book on the history of QA County’s families and earned enough money from the sales of her book to buy her house back. The County has leased the mansion to the newly formed Mary Edwardine Bourke Emory foundation, Inc. (www.mebe.org) for the purpose of establishing the museum. The building has sat unoccupied for many years and is much in need of repairs so considerable fund raising will be necessary for the success of this project. Mary Margaret Revell Goodwin, the QA County Historian, is leading the effort. She is herself an astoundingly accomplished athlete who is determined to bring this effort to fruition. Commissioner Cartee offered to serve as the liaison between the MCW and the MWHM. It was decided that the MCW should invite Ms. Goodwin to speak at the CFW Roundtable Meeting on November 17.

D. Voices Follow-Up Activities

In response to the release of the Voices of Maryland Women Listening Tour and Survey Report, Chair Yang, who chaired that project, has been invited to participate in a number of events:

- September 11 – TV News interview at Prince George’s Cable TV
- September 15 – Featured speaker at AAUW Montgomery County’s meeting
- September 22 – Panelist on women’s issues at a Museum Day presentation at the Maryland Museum of African Art
- September 25 – Citation from the Governor for the Voices of Maryland Women project

V. Unfinished Business

MCW Liaisons for 2018 – 2019

Chair Yang appointed the following commissioners to serve as the liaison between the identified organizations and the MCW. She noted that it is her hope that all commissioners who have agreed to serve as liaisons will do so responsibly, attending the meeting of the allied organization and participating actively.

Organization	Meets	2018 – 2019 MCW Liaison
Maryland Women’s Heritage Center	Saturdays, 10 am – 12 alternating months 10/6, 12/11, 2/9, 4/27, 6/15 Keswick Multi-care Center in Baltimore	Yun Jung Yang
WAG Foundation	Annually and as needed	Corinna Shen, April Nyman, Ummu Thomas, Evelyne Steward, Yun Jung Yang, Judy Vaughan-Prather
Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women (MLAW)	Fourth Monday of the month 7-9 pm in the Columbia area	Melissa Curtin
2019 Women’s Legislative Briefing Planning Committee	First Thursday of each month 7 p.m. September – January White Oak Community Center 1/27/19 WLB	Maureen Colburn Tammy Wise
Women Moving Forward Conference at the Maryland Correctional Institution for Women	No conference in 2019	N/A
Commission to Commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the Passage of the 19 Amendment to the U.S. Constitution	Third Tuesday of each month at 10 a.m. at the 5 th Regiment Armory, Baltimore; Conference Call-in is possible	Lee Bachu Ummu Thomas
Maternal Mortality Review Stakeholders Group	Probably twice/year, in Baltimore During the day	Homayara Aziz
National Association of Commissions for Women (NACW)	Board of Directors Conference Calls, Annual Conference: TBD: Summer 2019	Judy Vaughan-Prather
Museum of Maryland Women’s History	N/A	Deborah Cartee
UMD SAFE Center for Victims of Human Trafficking	Initiative to establish an attorney network	Amanda Costley

Commissioner Yam has served as one of the two MCW representatives to the Commemoration Commission for the past year however she has resigned that position. That Commission has offered to co-produce the WOW Festival at Notre Dame of Maryland University where Dr. Yam is President. To avoid any semblance of conflict of interest, she will no longer serve on that Commission. Commissioner Thomas has agreed to serve as the MCW liaison.

VI. New Business

A. Maryland WAG Foundation.....Cartee
Commissioner Cartee announced that she will donate Maryland flag motif scarves to any commissioner who donates \$50 to the Maryland WAG Foundation, and smaller items for smaller donations.

B. Attorney Network

In response to the presentation on human trafficking earlier in the meeting, Commissioner Cartee moved that the MCW collaborate with the Maryland SAFE Center to help build a network of attorneys providing low-cost legal services to victims of human trafficking. Commissioner Costley seconded the motion which passed unanimously. Second Vice Chair Sepe suggested that the MCW establish a liaison to the SAFE Center to coordinate our joint efforts. The commissioners agreed and Commissioner Costley offered to serve as that liaison. She was appointed to that role, and her name added to the list MCW liaisons on the previous page of these minutes.

VI. Committee Reports

A. PAL (Policy & Legislation) Committee.....Bresnahan
After the upcoming elections and after the MLAW Conference, the Committee will meet to start drafting a legislative platform for the MCW for the 2019 Maryland General Assembly. Commissioner Bresnahan briefly described the election cycles for Maryland’s statewide offices.

The 100 members of the U.S. Senate, are each elected for a term of six years. The terms are divided into three “classes” for election years. Maryland Senator Cardin is in Class 1 – and will stand for re-election this year. Class 2 Senators will run for office in 2020. Class 3 Senators, which include Senator Van Hollen, will stand for election in 2022. In the 435-member U.S. House of Representatives, each member is elected to a two-year term, so all Members of the House must run for election/re-election every two years. Maryland has eight House Members (Anthony Brown, Elijah Cummings, John Delaney – who is not seeking re-election this year, Andy Harris, Steny Hoyer, Jamie Raskin, John Sarbanes, and A. Dutch Ruppersberger).

In the Maryland General Assembly, members of both the state Senate and the House of Delegates are elected to four-year terms, with no limits to the number of terms they can serve. All 47 state Senators and 141 Delegates run for election at the same time, including this year. Maryland is divided into 47 election districts, with one Senator and three Delegates from each district.

The Governor and Lt. Governor, who run together on the same ballot, are elected to four-year terms at the same time as the members of the Maryland General Assembly. There are no limits on the number of terms for the Governor, but the Governor may not run for more than two consecutive terms.

B. 2020 Women’s Leadership Conference.....Chair Yang for Henry

Commissioner Henry is traveling for business and couldn’t be here this evening, but she sent a list of topics for discussion:

1. Event location – Annapolis or Baltimore’s Inner Harbor?
2. Attendees – Who is to be invited? Members of other women’s organizations.
3. Length of the event – one day or a day and a half?
4. Dates of the meeting: October or August (When Women’s Equality Day occurs)?
5. Program for the conference, topics to be addressed
6. Speakers to be invited
7. Registration and fee for registration
8. Will sight-seeing events be included in the program?
9. Subcommittees to be established:
 - Letter of invitation
 - Registration
 - Transportation
 - Sightseeing coordination
 - Hotel/Meal arrangements
 - Speakers’ Invitation
 - Publicity

Commissioner Wilson noted that not all women were able to vote when the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution passed in 1920. She said, and the commissioners agreed, that it will be important that the full story of voting rights be told at this conference.

C. 2019 ARC (Achievement & Recognition) Committee.....Cartee

The Committee has held its first meeting to begin planning for the Maryland Women’s Hall of Fame and Women of Tomorrow Awards nominations, selection, and ceremony. The “Call for Nominations” was launched just this week. Changes to the program include:

- Nomination process is entirely “on line” this year (Of course, exceptions and arrangements will be made for anyone who cannot access the Internet for this purpose.)
- Women of Tomorrow nominations will be open only for girls in Grades 10, 11 and 12.
- Women of Tomorrow nominees will be asked to write only one essay
- The Women of Tomorrow Selection Committee will consist of six members who will break into two or three teams, depending on the number of candidates. The teams will each evaluate an equal number of the nominees, selecting their top five from their pool. Then all the Selection Committee members will review the “top five” from each team as one group, and will select the final five honorees.
- The closing date for both the Hall of Fame and the Women of Tomorrow nominations will be November 30 – with not extensions granted.
- Up to five honorees will be selected for induction into the Hall of Fame, with a selection committee of five “judges.”

Commissioner Costley suggested making the one essay prompt a little more substantive, but since the nomination period has already opened, the committee will have to stay with the current language for this year and will consider that suggestion for next year.

Commissioner Wilson suggested sending the Call for Nominations to the Governor’s various Ethnic Commissions and staff agreed to make sure that happens.

VII. Liaison Reports

Chair Yang noted that the liaison appointments are new so several of the liaisons will have no report to make this evening.

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

B. 19th Amendment Commemoration Commission.....Yam
The Commission met last Tuesday and received the MCW’s letter inviting it to collaborate on the 2020 Conference. It will discuss that possibility at its December meeting. It hopes to have instructional information to share with schools throughout the state and is planning an essay contest as part of the commemoration activities.

C. MLAW.....Yang for Curtin
MLAW’s annual fall conference is scheduled for Saturday, November 17. Commissioners are encouraged to attend and to let the MCW staff know as soon as possible if they need to register.

D. 2019 Women’s Legislative Briefing.....Wise
The WLB planning committee met on October 4, preceded by a meeting of the program planning subcommittee. Possible seminar topics include:

- Leadership
- Human Trafficking
- The #MeToo Movement – Mental Health and Bullying in the Workplace
- Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault
- MC CFW Status of Women Report
- Economic Justice – Child Care, FMLA and Affordable Housing
- Justice-Involved Women
- Health Care, including Aging and Prescriptions

The theme for the Briefing will be “Women Igniting and Achieving Change.” On-line registration has not opened yet.

The MCW has signed on as a Community Sponsor Level 4 (\$125) which includes attendance for three representatives, inclusion of the chair in the Presidents’ Networking pre-conference session pre-conference, an exhibit table at the event, the MCW name in all publicity.

E. Maryland WAG Foundation.....Shen
Through Commissioner Nyman’s good work, the WAG Foundation has received a \$1000 donation from COMCAST. The WAG Board will meet next on November 15 to discuss possible fundraising efforts. Commissioner Shen, who is President of the Maryland WAG Board of Directors, thanked the commissioners for their generosity in making donations this evening, and especially thanked Commissioner Cartee for donating the scarves and other Maryland-themed items that were such an important and creative part of the effort.

F. Women Moving Forward Conference

We have learned that the WMF conference planning committee decided to hold the conference every other year, so there will be no WMF conference in 2019 at the Maryland Correctional Institution for Women.

G. Maternal Mortality Review Stakeholders Group

Commissioner Homayara Aziz has agreed to represent the MCW on this board and has been in communication with the staff supporting the newly forming organization.

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

Commissioner Cartee has been in touch with the founder of the organization working to establish the new museum, as discussed earlier in this meeting. She will try to arrange a visit to the historic location soon.

VIII. Staff Report.....Vaughan-Prather

A. 2018 Annual Report

The report is now complete with the DHS Secretary’s message included. It is at the Graphics Office being designed for print. Hopefully, it will be ready by the next MCW meeting.

B. New MCW Brochure

The staff has designed a new 8-panel (4-panel front and back) brochure outlining the MCW’s mission and activities. A draft of that brochure was circulated at tonight’s meeting. Commissioner Wilson offered to review the content and provide feedback to the staff by the next day. After that, the document will be sent to print. It is hoped that it can be ready by the November 17 MCW Roundtable Conference.

IX. Announcements

MCW Chair Yang has learned that she, along with Michele Siri, the Executive Director of the Women’s Law Center of Maryland, will receive the 2018 Rita C. Davidson Award from the Maryland Women’s Bar Association. This Award was established in 1985 to honor individuals who have contributed to the integrity of the legal profession, advanced the interests of women engaged in the practice of law, promoted legal education, aided in the administration of justice, and advanced the status of women in society and the legal profession. The Award is the highest honor presented by the Women’s Bar Association. Chair Yang said that the award is in recognition of the work on the Voices of Maryland Women project, and she shares the award with the entire Commission. She invited all commissioners to join her, as her guest at the awards dinner on Tuesday, November 13 at 6 p.m. at the Hotel at Arundel Preserve in Hanover.

The commissioners congratulated Chair Yang, and noted their appreciation of this recognition for her work and the Voices project.

The Chair thanked all the Commissioners in attendance for their warm congratulations and for their time and very thoughtful deliberations in this meeting,.

X. Adjournment.....Yang

The meeting was adjourned at 7:07 p.m.

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

APPROVED: November 15, 2018