

# Maryland Commission for Women

## Meeting Minutes

Thursday, May 16, 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  
Deborah Cartee  
Gloria Chang  
Maureen Colburn  
Amanda Costley  
Eugenia Henry T/C  
Lauren Lambert T/C  
Bonnie Luna  
Evelyne Steward T/C  
Ummu Bradley Thomas  
Tamara England Wilson  
Marylou Yam

### Commissioners Absent:

Lee Bachu  
Tammy Bresnahan  
Melissa Curtin  
Patricia M. Lambert  
Brenda McChriston  
Ishrat Memon  
April Nyman  
Roberta Pardo  
Corinna Shen

### Staff Attending:

Judith Vaughan-Prather, Executive Director

## I. Call to Order.....Yang

### A. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:15 p.m. by MCW Chair Yang. She announced that the guest speaker scheduled for this evening had been invited to come to the June MCW meeting instead since there were so many commissioners unable to attend today.

## II. Executive Committee Report.....Yang

### A. MCW June 20 Planning Meeting

It was proposed to use the Historic Oakland Mansion in Columbia for the MCW's June Planning Meeting. The meeting will begin at 3 p.m. Second Vice Chair Sepe moved that the meeting be held at that location. Commissioner Colburn seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

### B. Approval of Agenda

Chair Yang called for approval of the agenda for tonight's meeting. It was noted that under "Announcements," the time of the June 20 meeting is listed as 5 p.m., but it should be **3 p.m.** Commissioner Colburn moved approval of the agenda as amended. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

**C. Approval of Minutes of the April 18, 2019 MCW Meeting**

Commissioner Cartee moved approval of the minutes as submitted. The motion, seconded by First Vice Chair Bailey, passed unanimously.

**D. 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. To find a qualified contractor, the staff, in consultation with the MCW officers, developed a solicitation for bids which should be posted by the DHS Procurement Office by April 24. Staff will keep the Commission informed as this project moves forward.

**E. New Commissioner/Departing Commissioner**

The Governor has appointed Patricia M. Lambert to the MCW. She has been officially sworn in, but was unable to attend tonight’s meeting. In addition, Commissioner Aziz’s first term was complete in June 2018. As she has not attended a meeting of this commission since then, she has effectively resigned from the Commission and has been so informed. Her contributions during her term are very much appreciated.

**F. Meetings with the Global Federation of Chinese Business Women**

Commissioner Henry invited members of the MCW to a dinner she hosted for the visiting delegation from the Global Federation of Chinese Business Women. Commissioners Thomas, Shen, Chang, Luna, Yang and Memon attended along with the MCW staff. The next day, Commissioner Shen hosted a luncheon meeting for the Federation in Annapolis. Commission Chair Yang, accompanied by Executive Director Vaughan-Prather, attended and was the featured speaker, describing the work of the MCW, including the planned 2020 Conference. The delegation also visited Notre Dame of Maryland University, hosted by Commissioner Yam. Commissioner Henry thanked the Commission for its support of the GFCBW’s delegation visit to Maryland. She is still working on the possibility of the MCW visiting Taiwan at some point.

**III. Unfinished Business**

No unfinished business was brought before the Commission.

**IV. New Business**

No new business was brought before the Commission.

**V. Committee Reports**

**A. PAL (Policy and Legislation) Committee**

No report and Commissioner Bresnahan is out of town this week and unable to attend.

**B. 2019 ARC (Achievement & Recognition Ceremony) Committee.....Cartee**

Commissioner Cartee thanked all the Commissioners, again, for all their help with this year’s program. The photographs are all available on-line. Producing the planned video/photo presentation has proved more challenging than expected and requires applications not available to most commissioners. However, the DHS photographer has offered to work with the MCW staff to create a brief collage presentation combining excerpts from the video-taped

interviews of the Hall of Fame honorees, with photos from the ceremony. It is hoped that next year, the MCW will be able to hire a professional to produce the presentation.

Commissioner Colburn suggested that the MCW consider producing a promotional video about its work. Both she and Commissioner Steward offered to check with producers they know and report back at the June planning meeting.

High School Student Intern Sydney Yi developed an index of all 180 inductees in the Hall of Fame, by field of endeavor (Science, Medicine, Education, Business, Military, Community Activism, etc.) That index has been very helpful in developing the “women’s issue alerts” that the MCW sends to its distribution lists. For example, for National Earth Day, the alert included reference to two scientists (Biologist Rachel Carson and Marine Biologist Eugenie Clark) whose work on environmental issues was critical to our current understanding of the earth’s environment. It is hoped that this kind of relationship between the issue alerts and the Hall of Fame will maintain and build the Hall of Fame’s relevance and currency.

- C. 2020 Women’s Leadership Conference.....Henry**  
Planning will begin in earnest at the June meeting. MCW Chair Yang, Commissioner Henry and the Executive Director hope to meet before then to develop a proposed framework for discussion. Commissioners Yam and Steward offered to join that meeting.

## **VI. Liaison Reports**

- A. Maryland Women’s Heritage Center**

No report

- B. 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment Commemoration Commission .....Thomas**

A “Suffrage Tea” is planned for June 13, 2019, 2:30 – 4 p.m., at the Navy Academy Club in Annapolis. It is an invitation-only event hosted by the Commission to Commemorate the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Passage of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the U.S. Constitution (the Suffrage Commission), Maryland’s First Lady Yumi Hogan and Maryland’s Secretary of Commerce Kelly Shultz. The “Suffrage Commission” is also planning to place another historic marker, this one in Garrett County in front of the Court House. More information will be shared with the Commission as soon as it becomes available.

- C. MLAW**

No report.

- D. Maryland WAG Foundation.....Steward**

The WAG Foundation Board of Directors has developed a fundraising proposal that will allow individuals to “honor a woman (or women) in your life” with donations at differing levels. Discussion followed. Commissioner Luna reminded the Commission of the need to keep clear lines between the work of the Commission (organizing the 2020 Women’s Leadership Conference) and the work of the Foundation (fundraising). Commissioners Wilson and Sepe emphasized that point.

- E. Women Moving Forward Conference.....Vaughan-Prather for Curtin**

The date of the 2020 WMF Conference has been set for Saturday, April 11. The MCW provided a \$200 sponsorship of the 2019 WMF Conference.

**F. Maternal Mortality Review Stakeholders Group.....Vaughan-Prather**  
Dr. Aziz volunteered last year to represent the MCW on this newly created board. It has met only once since then. Since Dr. Aziz is no longer a commissioner, she may continue to serve on the MMRS Group, but not representing the MCW. Both she and the MMRS have been so advised. The MCW does not have a specific seat on this board, but the staff to the board has said that it would welcome a nomination from the MCW. Commissioner Costley volunteered to represent the MCW on this board. A letter nominating her will be sent.

**G. Museum of Maryland Women’s History.....Cartee**  
We have been advised by the founder of the initiative that the Museum’s foundation is expanding its board of directors and is working on fundraising.

**H. Health Information Exchange (HIE) Policy Board.....Wilson**  
The HIE Board has not met since Tamara was appointed. She was invited to and did attend a 1.5 hour webinar as an orientation to the issues that will be addressed by the board. It is uncertain at this point whether the HIE Policy Board will address concerns that fall within the purview of the Commission for Women. Commissioner Wilson will continue as a member for now, and will inform the MCW if there are any further considerations with which it should be concerned.

**I. UMD SAFE Center.....Costley**  
The Center is planning an Attorney Training on the issue of human trafficking in June and hopes that the MCW will help publicize the event across the state.

**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. Institute for Women’s Policy Research (IWPR) Seminar**

IWPR and the Program on Gender Analysis in Economics (PAGE) of the department of Economics at the American University are hosting a conference for visiting Fulbright Scholars from around the world on Friday, May 17. The seminar is sponsored by the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs as part of its flagship Fulbright program and is administered by the Institute of International Education (IIE). Vaughan-Prather was invited to participate as a panelist in a seminar on “Public Sector Efforts to Increase Women’s Economic Empowerment.” Participating with her will be Tiffany Boiman of the U.S. Department of Labor Women’s Bureau and Jeff Hayes of IWPR.

**C. Summer Student Interns**

The Commission’s budget includes funds for a college student summer intern to work at the Maryland State Archives updating, expanding and corroborating the biographies in the Maryland Women’s Hall of Fame. This year, the MSA, due to staff shortages, is unable to supervise an intern for this purpose. The MCW office requested and was given approval to hire a college student summer intern to work on this and other related tasks in the MCW office. Staff is working to develop the recruitment.

**VIII. Announcements**

**Next Meeting Dates:**

Executive Committee: The June 13 conference call will need to be changed as it conflicts with the Suffrage Tea event. It will be re-scheduled.

**MCW Meeting: June 20 at 3 p.m. at the Historic Oakland 5430 Vantage Point Road in Columbia.**

**IX. Adjournment.....Yang**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted*

Judith Vaughan-Prather, Executive Director  
Maryland Commission for Women

**APPROVED: June 20, 2019**