

Maryland Commission for Women

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, February 17, 2022

5 p.m.

Video Conference Call

Commissioners Attending:

Yun Jung Yang, Chair
Tawanda A. Bailey, First Vice Chair
Carole Jaar Sepe, Second Vice Chair
Essita Duncan
Judith Emmel
Kathryn M. Fiddler
Kristi S. Halford
Eugenia B. Henry
Lauren M. Lambert
Patricia McHugh Lambert
Brenda J. McChriston
Maria Menucci
Maxine Griffin Somerville
Evelyne S. Steward
Lenita Walker

Commissioners Absent:

Andrea Bottner
Tammy Bresnahan
Deborah Cartee
Gloria Chang (Resigned)
Beth Anne Langrell
Roberta Pardo
Jenny Pena Dias-Hayes
Luanne Ruddell
Corrina Yi-Yuan Kuo Shen
Tamara E. Wilson

Staff Attending:

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

I. Call to Order.....Yang

A quorum having been established; the meeting was called to order at 5:11 p.m. by Chair Yang.

A. Approval of Agenda

Chair Yang welcomed the commissioners. She called for approval of the agenda for tonight's meeting. Commissioner P. Lambert moved approval of the agenda. Commissioner Somerville seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

B. Approval of Minutes of the January 20, 2022 MCW Meeting

The Chair called for any amendments to the minutes of the January MCW meeting. Commissioner P. Lambert proposed removing Item VIII. A. under announcements, as it was only an insignificant comment. Commissioner Somerville proposed correcting the last line in Section VI. F. so that it reads: "the federal government has . . ." Commissioner P. Lambert moved approval of the minutes as amended. Commissioner Somerville seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

II. Executive Committee Report.....Yun Jung Yang, Chair

A. Commissioners Appointments and Resignation

It was noted that one Commissioner has effectively resigned as she has not attended a meeting of the MCW since last June. The MCW’s enabling legislation specifies that “A commissioner who fails to attend at least 50% of the regularly scheduled meetings of the Commission during any 12-month period shall be considered to have resigned.” It is anticipated that there will be two additional vacancies to fill on the MCW effective July 1, so it is expected that the Governor will appoint three new commissioners by that time.

Commissioner L. Lambert noted that due to her illness and subsequent injury, she has been unable to go to the office of the Clerk of the Court to be sworn into her new term on the MCW. She was encouraged to contact the Clerk’s office to inquire if it is possible to arrange for a virtual swearing in.

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. Status of Women in Maryland (SWiM) Pandemic Impact Research.....P. Lambert

A tentative date to release the report, “At the Heart of the Pandemic – Maryland Women and the COVID-19 Crisis,” has been set for March 14, the approximate second year anniversary of the government shutdown when the pandemic first arrived in Maryland in 2020. The report, having been approved by the Commission at the January meeting, is now being graphically designed and prepared for printing. It was shared with the DHS Secretary’s office but no response has been received yet. Preparations are being made for a briefing on the report, and Commissioner Steward volunteered to create PowerPoint slides to go with it. The next meeting of the SWiM Committee is February 25 at 9 a.m.

B. Policy and Legislation (PAL) Committee.....Halford

1. MCW Legislative Activities

The Maryland General Assembly is “in full swing,” with committee hearings and votes on bills occurring quickly and frequently. The PAL Committee members have submitted correspondence on almost all of the bills on the MCW’s legislative agenda for 2022, as the hearing have occurred. Commissioner Duncan has been wonderful about submitting the MCW’s written testimony through the MGA’s online portal.

HB0153/SB0033 Criminal Law - Sexual Crimes - Repeal of Spousal Defense:

Hearings have been held in the Senate and the House. The bill passed the House and is up for a vote in the Senate tomorrow.

HB0008/SB00275: Time to Care Act:

The bill was heard in both the House Economic Matters Committee (February 15) and the Senate Finance Committee (February 10). No further action yet.

HB0937/SB0890 Abortion Care Access Act of 2022:

Hearings in both the House Health and Government Operations Committee and the Senate Finance Committee are scheduled for next week. Testimony will be submitted.

HB0296/SB0280 Interim and Temporary Protective Order – Virtual Petition and Hearing:

The bill was heard in the House Judiciary Committee (February 3) and the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee (February 9). The Senate Committee is scheduled to vote on this legislation tomorrow.

HB0148/SB0328 Stalking:

The House Judiciary Committee heard this bill on January 27 and gave it a favorable report. It has now passed in the House. The Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee heard the bill on February 8. The Senate votes on the bill tomorrow.

HB0454/SB0776 Prevention of Forced Infant Separation Act:

The bill was heard in the House Judiciary Committee on February 8. A hearing in the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee is scheduled for March 9.

HB0626/SB0669 Pregnant Person’s Dignity Act:

At last month’s MCW meeting, the PAL Committee recommended supporting this bill with some conditions. As the testimony was being developed, it became clear that the MCW had too many questions about certain aspects of the proposed legislation, as it is written, to take a position on it. Commissioner Halford moved that the MCW take no position on this bill. Commissioner P. Lambert seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

2. Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women (MLAW)

No report.

3. Women’s Legislative Briefing (WLB).....McChriston

The January 30 event was very well attended and very well organized. The speakers were excellent. The theme – Voting Women Change Everything was inspiring. Several panelists spoke about the dangers of impeding voting rights. Several MCW Commissioners attended including Chair Yang, Vice Chair Bailey, Commissioners Bresnahan, Duncan, Somerville, Steward and Management Associate Wise.

C. Achievement and Recognition (ARC) Committee.....Somerville

The ARC Committee met on February 10 to continue planning for the March 17 opening of the Hall of Fame/Young Women Leaders website. We are working with the DHS communications office to design the website and a printed program book. We have received video statements from all our honorees (except one HOF inductee who is not willing to make a video), and have submitted the biographies and photos to the graphics office. We have received commitments for recorded greetings from Senators Van Hollen and Cardin, Mrs. Hogan and Delegate Anne Healey, chair of the Caucus of Maryland Women Legislators.

All the HOF honorees have now received their inscribed crystal bowls. I understand that the \$2500 donation from the Pai Ping Foundation to support these scholastic awards has been received by the Foundation for the MCW. The entire ARC Committee thanks Commissioner Eugenia Henry and her foundation for this generosity. We will provide names and addresses of

the winners of the Maryland Young Women Leaders Awards to the Foundation for the MCW so that checks for \$500 each may be mailed to them by March 17.

Our plan is to issue a press release announcing the names of the honorees on March 1 and announcing that the website will "go live" on March 17. Then, we will issue another announcement on the morning of the 17th, the day the website becomes available.

MCW Chair Yang commended the members of all three committee for all their efforts and especially the teamwork that they have all demonstrated during this exceptionally busy time.

VI. Liaison Reports

A. The Foundation for the Maryland Commission for Women....Yang and Steward for Shen

The Foundation held its annual meeting. Commissioner Shen was reelected Chair. Commissioner Henry confirmed her continued support of the MYWLA scholastic awards. The Foundation Board plans to hold a planning meeting in July to discuss its fundraising strategies and goals and to develop definitions of Board Member responsibilities.

B. Maryland Women's Heritage Center.....Yang

The Center is holding a panel discussion of the impact of Critical Race Theory on our understanding of Women's History.

C. Women Moving Forward (WMF) Conference.....McChriston

No report.

D. Maternal Mortality Review Stakeholders Group

No report.

E. Maryland Women's History Museum.....Emmel

Commissioner Emmel, MCW Chair Yang, and Executive Director Vaughan-Prather will try to schedule a visit to the new location for the Museum in the spring.

F. UMD SAFE Center.....Somerville

No report.

G. Maryland250 Commission.....Emmel

This commission is meeting every other month since the anniversary is still several years away. It is now soliciting proposals for the development of a website. One member of the commission represents the Maryland Center for History and Culture and says that it has, among its exhibits, a number relating to women in Maryland history. She invited MCW members to visit for a guided tour. Commissioner Emmel offered to make the arrangements and asked commissioners to let her know if they would like to attend.

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

A. Issue Alerts

Issue Alerts were sent out to our distribution lists on the subjects of African American women in Maryland's history to commemorate Black History Month, Heart Health Month (on Valentine's Day) and an announcement of an event for Black women veterans hosted by the Maryland Department of Veterans' Affairs.

B. U.S. D.O.L. Women's Bureau

The Executive Director met virtually with the U.S. Labor Department's Women's Bureau, Region III staff, Nicole Nira and Rose Holandez. They were interested in the MCW's work and how the Women's Bureau might support the work of CFWs in our region and nationwide. They offered to speak to the MCW at its April or May meeting about the Women's Bureau's priorities. Staff will let them know that the MCW would like to have them attend a meeting and have that discussion.

VIII. Announcements

A. Executive Committee Meeting: Thursday, March 10, 2022 @ 4:30 p.m.

B. MCW Meeting: Thursday, March 17, 2022 @ 5:00 p.m.

C. RAVING ABOUT WOMEN Event

The Frederick County CFW's RAW event will be held March 24 at 6:30.

D. Congratulations to Commissioner Henry!

Commissioner Henry has been presented a Lifetime Achievement Award from U.S. President Joe Biden for her lifelong commitment to building a stronger nation through volunteer service. The Commissioners all applauded this extraordinary and well-deserved honor.

IX. Adjournment

Chair Yang said that she is honored and privileged to work with this group of such extraordinary women. No further business being brought before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 6:18 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted: March 11, 2022

By: Judith Vaughan-Prather

Approved: March 17, 2022