

# Maryland Commission for Women

## Meeting Minutes

Thursday, March 17, 2022

5 p.m.

### Video Conference Call

#### Commissioners Attending:

Yun Jung Yang, Chair

Andrea Bottner

Essita Duncan

Judith Emmel

Kathryn M. Fiddler

Kristi S. Halford

Eugenia B. Henry

Lauren M. Lambert

Patricia McHugh Lambert

Beth Anne Langrell

Brenda J. McChriston

Maria Menucci

Roberta Pardo

Luanne Ruddell

Corrina Yi-Yuan Kuo Shen

Maxine Griffin Somerville

Evelyne S. Steward

Lenita Walker

Tamara E. Wilson

#### Commissioners Absent:

Tawanda A. Bailey, First Vice Chair

Tammy Bresnahan

Deborah Cartee

Gloria Chang

Jenny Pena Dias-Hayes

Carole Jaar Sepe, Second Vice Chair

#### 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 5:05 p.m. by Chair Yang.

#### A. Approval of Agenda

Chair Yang welcomed the commissioners. She recommended adding the proposed 2022 CFW Roundtable Meeting to the agenda for tonight's meeting, under New Business, and moving item C – Guest Speaker in the Executive Committee Report down to this discussion. Commissioner Steward proposed adding the development of a statement of solidarity with the women of Ukraine, also under New Business. Chair Yang called for approval of the agenda for tonight's meeting with these changes. Commissioner Ruddell moved approval of the agenda as amended. Commissioner Henry seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

#### B. Approval of Minutes of the February 17, 2022 MCW Meeting

The Chair called for any amendments to the minutes of the February MCW meeting. Commissioner Walker noted that her first name was spelled incorrectly in the list of those attending. Commissioner P. Lambert noted that, since there are two commissioners with the same last name, the minutes should always include the first name initial before that name. With

these corrections, Commissioner P. Lambert moved approval of the minutes. Commissioner Ruddell seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

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

### **A. Commissioners Appointments and Reappointments**

In his annual Green Bag appointment, the Governor has re-appointed five current Commissioners to new four-year terms, and has appointed two new commissioners:

- Kathryn Fiddler
- Eugenia Bair Henry
- Patricia McHugh Lambert
- Maria Menucci
- Lenita Walker
- Monica Watkins (New)
- D'Yana Kaprece James (New)

These appointments all received favorable votes by the Senate Executive Nominations Committee and will go for a final vote of approval by the full Senate next week.

### **B. Maryland Department of Natural Resources Presentation**

At the invitation of the DNR, Commission Chair Yang, ARC Committee Chair Pardo and SWiM Committee Chair Wilson will deliver a briefing on the MCW's work during a special Women's History Month staff meeting of the more than 1800 employees and contractors of this department. The briefing is scheduled for March 30.

### **C. MCW Officers Elections**

All three MCW officer positions will be open for election at the June MCW meeting. At the April meeting, intent to run forms will be distributed, to be returned by the date of the May meeting. The election will be held at the June meeting. The term of each office is two years.

### **D. Annual Planning Meeting – June 16**

Each year, the MCW devotes its June meeting to setting its agenda for the new program year (July 1 – June 30). The Executive Committee is hoping that this year, after two years of virtual gatherings, this meeting can be held in-person at the Banneker-Douglass Museum in Annapolis. The MCW Executive Director will make a site visit there tomorrow and more details will be shared with the Commission at the April meeting.

## **III. Unfinished Business**

No unfinished business was brought before the Commission.

## **IV. New Business**

### **A. Statement of Solidarity with Women of Ukraine.....Steward**

Commissioner Steward moved that the MCW publish a statement of solidarity with the women and the people of Ukraine in support of their struggle against the Russian invasion, to honor the resilience of the Ukrainian people, to stand in support of their resistance to the violence and the attack on democracy this war represents. She offered to draft the statement which can be sent to the Commissioners for an email vote of approval. Commissioner Ruddell seconded the motion, to include an electronic vote of approval of the actual statement. That motion passed unanimously.

**B. CFW Roundtable Meeting.....Yang**  
Each year, the MCW has invited all the county/city Commissions for Women (CFWs) in the state to a roundtable discussion about common concerns, issues and strategies. Last year the meeting was held, virtually, in June. Chair Yang recommended that it be held virtually again this year, but in May, on the date of the May 19 MCW meeting. The Women’s Bureau speakers who offered to present a briefing at the MCW’s April meeting could be invited to present that briefing to all the CFWs at the May CFW Roundtable meeting instead. Commissioner Ruddell so moved. Commissioner Somerville seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

**V. Committee Reports**

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

**1. MCW Legislative Activities**

Next week “cross-over day” occurs in the Maryland General when bills move from the House to the Senate and vice versa. The Commission has submitted its testimony on all the bills on its agenda. Commissioner Duncan has been wonderful about submitting the MCW’s written testimony through the MGA’s online portal. Below is a summary of the current status of each of the bills the Commission has supported this year:

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

House- Third Reading Passed (125-6)

Senate- Third Reading Passed (44-0)

**HB0008/SB00275: Time to Care Act:**

House- no movement

Senate- Third Reading Passed (31-15)

**HB0937/SB0890 Abortion Care Access Act of 2022:**

House- Third Reading Passed (89-47)

Senate- no movement

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

House- Third Reading Passed (126-0)

Senate- Third Reading Passed (45-0)

**HB0148/SB0328 Stalking:**

House- Third Reading Passed (132-0)

Senate- Third Reading Passed (45-0)

**HB0454/SB0776 Prevention of Forced Infant Separation Act:**

No movement in either House or Senate

**2. Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women (MLAW).....Langrell**

No report, tonight. Commissioner Langrell will send an update tomorrow to be shared with the commissioners.

**3. Women’s Legislative Briefing (WLB).....McChriston**  
Commissioner McChriston attended the wrap-up meeting of the committee that planned the 2022 WLB. The committee hopes to plan a hybrid event next year that may be attended in-person with a virtual participation option. The planning committee is looking for a new venue that could hold a crowd as large as 500 and wondered if the MCW might help locate such a facility, not necessarily in Montgomery County.

**B. Achievement and Recognition (ARC) Committee.....Pardo**  
The website honoring the 2022 inductees into the Maryland Women’s Hall of Fame and the 2022 recipients of the Maryland Young Women Leaders Awards was opened to the public today. It features the biographies, photos and a video statement from each of the honorees, along with video-recorded greetings from U.S. 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, and the MYWLA winners have received their \$500 scholastic awards. Much thanks to Commissioner Eugenia Henry and her foundation for this generosity and to Commissioner Shen who chairs the Foundation for the Maryland Commission for Women.

A press release announcing the names of the honorees and the launching of the website was issued this morning.

Commissioner Pardo and MCW Chair Yang commended the members of the ARC Committee for all their hard work.

A subcommittee of the ARC Committee will now start work writing a procedural manual for the solicitation, nomination, selection and recognition process. It plans to survey the entire ARC Committee asking what each member thinks works well and what could work better.

**A. Status of Women in Maryland (SWiM) Pandemic Impact Research.....P. Lambert**  
A date to release the report, “At the Heart of the Pandemic – Maryland Women and the COVID-19 Crisis,” has been set for April 4. The report, was approved by the Commission at the January meeting, has now been graphically designed and sent off for printing. It was shared with the DHS Secretary’s office and has been approved. Preparations are being made for a video-recorded briefing on the report. Commissioner Steward volunteered to create PowerPoint slides to go with it.

Much appreciation is due to the committee and staff for all the time and effort that has gone into this research project, and thanks is also due to the Commission’s Foundation which funded the research. Commissioner Shen chairs the Foundation and said the Foundation is very proud to support this work.

## **VI. Liaison Reports**

**A. The Foundation for the Maryland Commission for Women..... Shen**  
The Foundation is still seeking nominations of new board members. Foundation Chair Shen thanked Commissioner Henry again for the generosity of the Pai Ping Foundation supporting the MYWLA awards. MCW Chair Yang echoed that gratitude.

**B. Maryland Women’s Heritage Center.....Yang**  
The Center offered a panel discussion of life of Virginia Poe, wife of famed poet Edgar Allen Poe on March 15. It has held a number of other events during Women’s History Month.

**C. Women Moving Forward (WMF) Conference.....Bottner & McChriston**  
The WMF planning committee has set a date of Saturday, October 1 for the WMF conference in the Maryland Correctional Institution for Women. Commissioner Bailey has forwarded the contact information for Commissioners Bottner and McChriston to the organizers so they can be included in any future planning meetings.

**D. Maternal Mortality Review Stakeholders Group**  
No report.

**E. Maryland Women’s History Museum.....Emmel**  
No report

**F. UMD SAFE Center.....Somerville**  
The Safe Center’s legislative agenda for 2022 includes almost 10 bills that it is actively tracking and supporting.

**G. Maryland 250 Commission.....Emmel**  
No report.

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

**A. Women’s History Month Activities**

Issue Alerts were sent out to our distribution lists on the subjects of Women’s History Month, the Maryland Women’s Hall of Fame, International Women’s Day and Equal Pay Day. Two “health alerts” will be sent out before the month ends.

**B. “New” Commissions for Women**

On December 1, 2021, the MCW wrote to the eight major jurisdictions in the state that did not have active CFWs including Caroline, Cecil, Dorchester, Kent, Queen Anne’s, Somerset, and Talbot Counties, and Baltimore City, urging them to establish or re-activate CFWs in their community. The MCW had already been in touch with Wicomico County on the same issue. This month, staff in the County Executive’s office in Cecil County reached out to Executive Director Vaughan-Prather as it is now re-activating its CFW. We have learned from the County Executive’s office in Wicomico County that its recently re-activated CFW is now “up and running.” A chair has been selected, and MCW’s own Commissioner Fidler has been appointed to serve as a member of that Commission. Commissioner Wilson has been in touch with Baltimore City Councilwoman Green who is also working to re-activate the CFW in the city. In addition, Executive Director Vaughan-Prather spent an hour consulting with a commissioner from Mercer County, N.J. about strategies for effective advocacy there, including the possibility of conducting a listening tour, similar to the MCW’s.

**VIII. Announcements**

**A. Executive Committee Meeting:** Thursday, April 14, 2022 @ 4:30 p.m.

**B. MCW Meeting:** **Thursday, April 21, 2022 @ 5:00 p.m.**

**C. Charles County CFW Program.....Somerville**

Charles County Commissioner Thomasina Coates and the Charles County CFW are sponsoring a free *women’s networking event for women business owners and aspiring entrepreneurs* on Sunday, March 27, 4 -6 p.m. at the Red Tails Ocean Grill in Waldorf.

**D. Prince George’s County CFW Program.....Duncan**

On Tuesday, April 26 at 5 p.m. the Prince George’s County CFW will sponsor a program, *Hope and Healing*, in keeping with the theme for the national Women’s History Month. The program will be held at the Bowie Center for the Performing Arts. Commissioner Duncan will send the MCW staff the announcement to be shared with the Commission.

**E. Self-Care Program in Easton.....Langrell**

For All Seasons is sponsoring a program to help women deal with stress and burnout through self-care techniques. The program is scheduled for March 23 at 6 p.m., in person with live-streaming options. Commissioner Langrell will share the announcement with the MCW staff tomorrow so it may be sent to the Commission.

**IX. Adjournment**

No further business being brought before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 6:18 p.m. Chair Yang wished everyone a healthy and safe start of Spring.

**Respectfully Submitted:** April 15, 2022

**By:** Judith Vaughan-Prather

**Approved:** April 21, 2022