

Maryland Commission for Women

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, April 21, 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
Tammy Bresnahan
Andrea Bottner
Deborah Cartee
Judith Emmel
Kathryn M. Fiddler
Kristi S. Halford
Eugenia B. Henry
D. Kaprece James
Lauren M. Lambert
Patricia McHugh Lambert
Beth Anne Langrell
Brenda J. McChriston
Roberta Pardo

Corrina Yi-Yuan Kuo Shen
Maxine Griffin Somerville
Evelyne S. Steward
Lenita Walker
Tamara E. Wilson

Commissioners Absent:

Essita Duncan
Maria Menucci
Jenny Pena Dias-Hayes
Luanne Ruddell

Staff Attending:

Judith Vaughan-Prather, Executive Director

I. Call to Order.....Yun Jung Yang, Chair

A quorum having been established; the meeting was called to order at 5:04 p.m. by Chair Yang.

A. Approval of Agenda

Chair Yang welcomed the commissioners. She recommended adding two items to the agenda for tonight's meeting and corrected the date of the May 19 CFW Roundtable Meeting in the Announcements section. Commissioner Shen moved approval of the agenda as amended. Commissioner Somerville seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

B. Approval of Minutes of the March 17, 2022 MCW Meeting

The Chair called for any amendments to the minutes of the March MCW meeting. Executive Director Vaughan-Prather offered several corrections, including the spelling of the Banneker-Douglass Museum on page 2, Section II. D., the date of the CFW Roundtable Meeting on page 3, Section IV. B., and a few minor typographical errors. With these corrections, Commissioner Langrell moved approval of the minutes. Commissioner Somerville seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

C. Introduction of New Commissioner

The Governor appointed D. Kaprece James to fill the position vacated by Commissioner Chang during the Maryland General Assembly 2022 session. Her appointment was approved by the Senate and becomes effective immediately. Commissioner James participated in this evening’s meeting from Nairobi, Kenya where she is attending a board meeting, representing her non-profit organization, Stella’s Girls, as Vice Chair of the Diaspora Committee for the African Women’s Communications and Development Network. Commissioner James lives in Charles County and is Vice Chair of the Charles County Commission for Women among her many activities. The Commissioners in attendance introduced themselves to her and welcomed her to the Maryland Commission for Women.

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

A. Additional Commissioner Appointments

As discussed at last month’s meeting, the Governor also appointed Monica Watkins during the Maryland General Assembly’s session. Her appointment was approved by the Senate for a term that begins July 1. She will be invited to the Commission’s planning meeting in June so that she may participate in the discussion although she will not be able to vote on any motions. There will be one more vacant position on the Commission beginning July 1. If that position is filled before the General Assembly meets again, it would be an interim appointment. That means that it would take effect immediately but would require approval of the Senate when the General Assembly convenes again in 2023. That can happen only if the Governor puts her name forward to the Senate Executive Nominations Committee during the session. If that does not happen, or if the Senate were to not approve that appointment, then that commissioner’s term would end when the 2023 General Assembly closes in April.

B. Maryland Department of Natural Resources Presentation (DNR)

At the invitation of the DNR, Commission Chair Yang, ARC Committee Chair Pardo and SWiM Committee Chair Wilson presented a briefing on the MCW’s work during a special Women’s History Month departmental staff meeting on March 30. DNR Secretary Haddaway-Riccio attended. The briefing was very well received. A recording of the presentation was shared with the commissioner via email earlier this month.

C. CFW Roundtable Meeting Plans

The local CFWs in Maryland will be invited to the annual CFW Roundtable meeting on Thursday, May 19 at 6 p.m. Speakers will include Rose Holandez from the U.S. D.O.L Women’s Bureau. The Roundtable will take the place of the MCW’s meeting that day. Commissioners are encouraged to attend. Non-attendance will be counted as an absence for the MCW attendance records.

D. Annual Planning Meeting – June 16

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 staff is working with the DHS technical staff to arrange for the necessary equipment and Internet connections.

E. MCW Officers Elections

A memo outlining the MCW officer election process and Intent to Run forms were distributed with the packets for tonight's meeting. Candidates must submit their Intent to Run form to the MCW office by May 19 and elections will be held at the June 16 meeting. In response to a question from Commissioner P. Lambert, the staff noted that all three MCW officer positions will be open for election at the June MCW meeting as the incumbents are term-limited in the office they presently hold. Two of the current officers (Commissioners Yang and Sepe) have less than two years remaining in their time on the Commission, and the terms of officers are for two years from the date of the election. The MCW First Vice Chair, Commissioner Bailey, has another two years left in her term on the MCW and so is eligible to run for another office if she so chooses. The commissioners asked that an updated roster listing all the commissioners, their terms on the MCW, the jurisdiction they represent, and their contact information be sent to the commissioners.

F. Solidarity Statement

At the March Commission meeting, Commissioner Steward proposed that the Commission publish a statement of solidarity with the people of Ukraine who are suffering Russia's brutal invasion of their country. She offered to draft the statement which was sent to the Commissioners via email after the meeting. A vote of approval was taken via email. Of the 25 commissioners, 19 voted to approve and publish the statement, none voted no, and six did not vote. The motion to publish the statement was thus approved and it was published on the MCW's website and Facebook page and was sent to the MCW's distribution lists as an Issue Alert.

G. Baltimore City Commission for Women

The MCW Executive Director spoke with Baltimore City Equity Office staff today and learned that the portal for submitting applications for appointment to the Baltimore City Commission for Women has now closed. More than 50 applications have been received. Screening committees have been established to review the applications with the goal of recommending 19 nominees to the Mayor for appointment, hopefully by the end of May. It was suggested that if the appointments have not been made in time for the CFW Roundtable meeting on May 19, an invitation to attend should be sent to the staff person leading the initiative to re-activate the CFW.

III. New Business

A. Women's Law Center of Maryland (WLC MD) 50th Anniversary

The WLC MD is commemorating its 50 years of advocacy on behalf of the women of this state with an event to be held on May 19. Unfortunately, that is the same date as the CFW Roundtable Meeting. The MCW Executive Committee proposed purchasing a \$300 half-page ad in the program book to support the Center. Commissioner Halford so moved. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Somerville and passed unanimously.

IV. Committee Reports

A. Status of Women in Maryland (SWiM) Pandemic Impact Research.....Wilson

The report, *At the Heart of the Pandemic – Maryland Women and the COVID-19 Crisis*, was published on April 4. Commissioners Yang, Wilson and P. Lambert created a video-recorded briefing on the report which is posted on the MCW website. Commissioner Steward created the beautiful PowerPoint slides to go with the video. A press release was developed and sent to the MCW's distribution lists.

Among the report’s recommendations is the establishment of paid family and medical leave for all workers. The Time to Care Act, which creates an employer and employee-funded insurance program, passed this year in the Maryland General Assembly. Shortly after the publication of the report, that bill was vetoed, but the veto was overridden before the Assembly ended and so will become law.

The report made a total of 13 recommendations – three of which apply to the MCW’s own operations, including one to expand the MCW’s outreach by encouraging the establishment of a CFW in every jurisdiction in the state where a CFW does not presently exist. The SWiM Committee hopes that the MCW will consider how it can implement its recommendations at its June planning meeting.

Chair Yang congratulated the SWiM Committee members, and commended Committee Chair Wilson and Vice Chair P. Lambert for their extraordinary leadership on this initiative. She extended much appreciation to the Commission’s Foundation which funded the research, and also to Dr. Rita Kirshstein, the sociologist who conducted the research and drafted the report on behalf of the Commission.

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

1. MCW Legislative Activities

Commissioner Halford noted that, with the passage of the Time to Care Act and the Abortion Care Access Act, it really was a “year for women” in the Maryland General Assembly. She reviewed the final status of the bills the MCW supported:

**HB0008/SB00275: Time to Care Act:
Passed with a veto override**

**HB0937/SB0890 Abortion Care Access Act of 2022:
Passed with a veto override**

**HB0296/SB0280 Interim and Temporary Protective Order – Virtual Petition and
Hearing:
To Governor for signature**

**HB0148/SB0328 Stalking:
To Governor for signature**

**HB0454/SB0776 Prevention of Forced Infant Separation Act:
Died in Committee**

**HB0153/SB0033 Criminal Law - Sexual Crimes - Repeal of Spousal Defense:
Died at the end of session**

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

Commissioner Langrell reported that, despite the notable successes, there is still disappointment that the Love is No Defense Act failed to pass again this year. MLAW will hold a virtual wrap-up of this year’s activities in the state legislature on May 2 at 6 p.m. She will send the invitation to the staff for distribution to the Commissioners.

C. 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 successfully launched last month. Attention is now turned to the development of a procedure’s manual for the awards/induction process to ensure consistency from year to year and alignment of the process with the MCW’s mission and goals. A questionnaire was sent to all the 2022 ARC Committee members asking them to identify what they thought worked well and what could work better. A subcommittee has been established and has begun work on the project. It is hoped to have the new manual finished by the fall when solicitation of nominations for 2023 honors will begin.

VI. Liaison Reports

A. The Foundation for the Maryland Commission for Women..... Shen
The Foundation’s purpose is to support the work of the MCW. The Foundation is still seeking nominations of new board members and Commissioners are urged to consider applying or nominating individuals who might be interested.

B. Maryland Women’s Heritage Center.....Yang
On May 14, the Center will unveil an historic marker in Easton, and another on May 22 at the Mount Olivet Cemetery in Frederick. On Saturday, June 4, from 10 a.m. to noon, the Center will host an in-person open house at its new home at 333 N. Charles Street in the Marian House/Woman’s Industrial Exchange building. The Center will also honor suffragist Edith Houghton Hooker, who based much of her work nearby, with a historical marker installed at the site.

C. Women Moving Forward (WMF) Conference.....Bottner & McChriston
The WMF planning committee has set a date of Saturday, October 1, 2023 for the WMF conference in the Maryland Correctional Institution for Women (MCIW). Commissioner McChriston attended the most recent planning meeting for this event. In the past, there have been as many as 120 MCIW residents attending the conference. Preliminary plans are to offer a plenary session and 24 workshops. The planning committee will conduct focus groups among the MCIW residents seeking their input on workshop topics that would be helpful as they plan for their re-entry into their family, community and work. Commissioners were encouraged to send Commissioner McChriston recommendations for possible workshop speakers and topics.

D. Maternal Mortality Review Stakeholders Group
No report.

E. Maryland Women’s History Museum.....Emmel
The planned new location is no longer available for the proposed Maryland Women’s History Museum. Commissioners Emmel and Yang and Executive Director Vaughan-Prather hope to meet with Mary Margaret Revell Goodwin, who is leading the initiative to establish the museum, this Spring.

F. UMD SAFE Center.....Somerville
Commissioner Somerville will send a written report of the Safe Center’s legislative activities for 2022 to be shared with the Commissioners.

G. Maryland 250 Commission.....Emmel
The Maryland Senate recognized the MD250 Commission at an event in Annapolis. This provided an opportunity for the Commissioners to finally meet each other in person. They will continue their work planning this important commemoration of the state’s historic anniversary.

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

A. Women’s History Month Activities

The distribution of the MCW’s health and issue alerts began seven years ago as an initiative of the MCW Women’s Health Committee, which created the “Year in Women’s Health” pages on the MCW’s website. The staff recommends that the Commission discuss the continued value of this project at its June planning meeting.

B. Staffing and Office Hours

The staff continues to work in a hybrid schedule of home and office. Management Associate Wise is typically in the office on Thursdays and Executive Director Vaughan-Prather is typically in the office on Fridays.

VIII. Announcements

A. Executive Committee Meeting: Thursday, May 12, 2022 @ 4:30 p.m.

B. CFW Roundtable Meeting: Thursday, May 19, 2022 @ 6:00 p.m.

IX. Adjournment

No further business being brought before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 6:26 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted: June 9, 2022

By: Judith Vaughan-Prather

Approved: June 16, 2022