

# Maryland Commission for Women

## Meeting Minutes

Thursday, June 16, 2022

3 p.m.

Banneker-Douglass Museum  
84 Franklin Street Annapolis, Maryland

### Commissioners Attending:

Yun Jung Yang, Chair  
Tawanda A. Bailey, First Vice Chair  
Carole Jaar Sepe, Second Vice Chair  
Deborah Cartee (Virtual)  
Essita Duncan  
Judith Emmel  
Kathryn M. Fiddler  
Kristi S. Halford  
D. Kaprece James  
Lauren M. Lambert  
Patricia McHugh Lambert  
Beth Anne Langrell  
Maria Menucci  
Roberta Pardo  
Corrina Yi-Yuan Kuo Shen  
Maxine Griffin Somerville  
Evelyne S. Steward (Virtual)

Lenita Walker  
Tamara E. Wilson

### Commissioners Absent:

Andrea Bottner  
Tammy Bresnahan  
Jenny Peña Dias-Hayes  
Eugenia B. Henry  
Brenda J. McChriston  
Luanne Ruddell

### Guest:

Monica Watkins

### Staff Attending:

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

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

A quorum having been established; the meeting was called to order at 3:18 p.m. by Chair Yang, who welcomed the commissioners to the MCW's annual planning meeting, and the first in-person meeting of the MCW in more than two years.

#### A. Approval of Agenda

Chair Yang recommended adding one item – an introduction to the Banneker-Douglass Museum where the meeting was being held - to the agenda for tonight's meeting.

Commissioner Somerville moved approval of the agenda as amended. Commissioner P. Lambert seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

#### B. Approval of Minutes of the April 21, 2022 MCW Meeting

The Chair called for any amendments to the minutes of the April MCW meeting. (The MCW did not meet in May, holding the CFW Roundtable Meeting instead.) Commissioner P.

Lambert moved approval of the minutes. Commissioner Wilson seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

**C. Welcome to the Banneker-Douglass Museum..... Commissioner Wilson**

In addition to her service on the MCW, Commissioner Wilson is the Chair of the Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture, the first such Commission in the state and in the nation, and the only one that operates a museum. The was established 53 years ago in a campaign led by State Senator Verda Mae Freeman Welcome who was the second black woman in the U.S. to be elected to a state senate and the first to be elected to the Maryland legislature, first in the House of Delegates and then in the Maryland Senate. The museum is a project of the Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture.

Commissioner Wilson introduced LeRon Herbert, Executive Assistant at the Museum who welcomed the MCW to the BDM and provided some history: The museum was founded in the former Mt. Moriah A.M.E. church in 1984 as the result of a partnership between the African American community and state and local governments. The city had planned to demolish the historic building, but, thanks to Senator Welcome’s leadership, the state was convinced to purchase the building and authorize its transition to the museum it is today, dedicated to the documentation, preservation and exhibition of Maryland’s African American heritage.

**D. Introduction of New Commissioner**

The Governor appointed Monica Watkins to a term that begins July 1. However, the Commissioner invited her to attend tonight’s planning meeting as a guest since she will be part of the Commission as it carries out the plans made today. Commissioner Watkins lives in Baltimore County.

**E. Outreach Activities**

**1. Maryland Women’s Heritage Center**

On June 4, MCW Chair brough the MCW’s greetings to the Grand Reopening of the Maryland Women’s Heritage Center in its new location in Marion House, the former Women’s Industrial Exchange in Baltimore. Executive Director Vaughan-Prather accompanied her to the event.

**2. Maryland Office of Inclusion and Women Veterans**

At the invitation of the Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs, MCW Chair Yang provided pre-recorded video greetings to the first annual conference in the state for women veterans.

**II. Getting to Know You..... First Vice Chair Bailey**

Commissioners in attendance were asked to introduce themselves to one another and tell a little bit about what they have done on the Commission and what they hope to contribute.

The meeting was paused for a dinner break and reconvened at 4:53.

**III. Wrap-Up of 2021/2022 Committee Work**

**A. CFW Community Initiatives..... Yang**

**1. CFW Roundtable Meeting**

As mentioned earlier, the MCW convenes an annual meeting of the county and city Commissions for Women (CFWs) in the state to share strategies, information and support. This year’s Roundtable Meeting was held on May 19, in lieu of the monthly MCW meeting. In Maryland, there are 24 major jurisdictions – 23 counties and Baltimore City. At this time

last year, there were 14 local CFWs in the state, in addition to the Maryland Commission for Women. During the year, three jurisdictions re-activated their CFWs – Wicomico County, Cecil County and Baltimore City – bringing the total to 17 county/city CFWs! Only the state of California boasts more. Fourteen of those 17 CFWs joined the meeting, with more than 50 commissioners attending. They received a briefing from Rose Holandez of the U.S. Department of Labor Women’s Bureau, and a presentation about the recently published report on *Maryland Women and the Impact of the COVID19 Crisis*, before discussing the projects and initiatives of each CFW.

**2. Outreach to Counties without CFWs.....Yang**

Last December, the MCW wrote to every county in the state that did not have an active CFW, urging them to either reactivate their CFW, or to establish a CFW. Three responded, with Baltimore City and Wicomico County reactivating CFWs that had been lapsed, and in Cecil County, County Executive Danielle Hornberger recently established a CFW for that jurisdiction.

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

The PAL Committee had an excellent year – supporting six legislative initiatives in the Maryland General Assembly, four of which passed! All advocacy was conducted by letter or written testimony. This committee is very busy for the four months the Maryland General Assembly is in session, but then can be much less active for the rest of the year. Special thanks go to PAL Committee Vice Chair Duncan who coordinated to submission of the MCW’s letters and testimony, and to every committee member who wrote the letters and testimony on the bills.

**C. Achievement and Recognition Committee (ARC).....Pardo**

Five extraordinary women were inducted in the Maryland Women’s Hall of Fame in March 2022 and five high school students were presented the Maryland Young Women Leaders Award, which included a \$500 scholastic award provided by the Foundation for the MCW, through the generosity of Commissioner Henry. As large in-person events were still discouraged at that time, a special website was created to publish the accomplishments of all 10 honorees. A subcommittee of the ARC has just finished work creating a policy and procedures manual for conducting the solicitation of nominations and selection and the honorees. The work of Commissioners Somerville and L. Lambert, who coordinate the Hall of Fame and Young Women Leaders Awards respectively, was instrumental in the success of this year’s program.

**D. Status of Women in Maryland (SWiM Committee) .....Wilson**

In April, the MCW published a report of the last of its three major research projects: *The Voices of Maryland Women Listening Tour (2018)*; *Maryland Women – A Status Report (2021)*; and *Maryland Women and the COVID19 Crisis (2022)*. One thing that became evident during the course of the recent survey was that the MCW’s outreach connects mostly to women of relatively high income and education and is not reflective of the diversity of the population of the state. Women of color and especially women of lower income were very much underrepresented among the respondents to the survey. The report makes a total of 13 recommendations to address the needs of women affected by the pandemic. Three of those recommendations were specific to the MCW – steps it should take to reach a broader representation of Maryland women.

**IV. Structure of the Planning Discussion.....Yang**

Chair Yang reviewed the MCW’s legislative mandate, the goals for this meeting – to reach a consensus on the MCW’s projects and initiatives for the coming year – and the established criteria for selection the MCW’s priorities and committees.

Much discussion followed regarding the role of commissioners in reaching out to a more diverse population, the need for increased funding and resources for the commission, and how to increase the MCW’s visibility and effectiveness, improve its branding and communication.

Commissioner Wilson moved that the MCW establish a committee to address the three recommendations identified for the MCW in its Women and COVID study. Commission Duncan seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

**V. Formation of Committees - Commissioners volunteered to serve on the following committees**

**Policy and Legislation (PAL):**

- Jenny Peña Dias
- Essita Duncan
- Kristi Halford
- Kaprece James
- Pat Lambert
- Lenita Walker
- Tawanda Bailey, Maxine Griffin Somerville, Roberta Pardo

**Achievement and Recognition Committee (ARC):**

- Deborah Cartee
- Judith Emmel
- Lauren Lambert
- Patricia Lambert
- Beth Anne Langrell
- Maria Menucci
- Evelyne Steward
- Lenita Walker
- Yun Jung Yang
- Tawanda Bailey, Maxine Griffin Somerville, Roberta Pardo

**Action Committee (Possibly to Be Renamed):**

- Essita Duncan
- Kathy Fiddler
- Kristi Halford
- Kaprece James
- Lauren Lambert
- Carole Jaar Sepe
- Evelyne Steward
- Monica Watkins
- Tamara Wilson
- Yun Jung Yang
- Tawanda Bailey, Maxine Griffin Somerville, Roberta Pardo

**VI. Liaison and Sponsorships:**

**A. Liaisons:**

Commissioners volunteered to serve as MCW liaison to the following organizations:

- Maryland Women’s Heritage Center Bailey
- Foundation for the MCW Henry, James  
Langrell, Pardo  
Steward, Watkins  
Yang  
Langrell
- MLAW Langrell
- 2023 Women’s Legislative Briefing McChriston
- 2023 Women Moving Forward Conference Bottner, McChriston  
Watkins
- Maternal Mortality Review Stakeholders Group Peña Dias
- Maryland Women’s History Museum Emmel
- Maryland SAFE Center Somerville
- MD Semiquincentennial Commission (MD 250) Emmel
- National Association of CFWs (NACW) Somerville

**B. Sponsorships:**

Commissioner P. Lambert moved approval of the proposed list of sponsorships below, allowing for up to 20% increase in cost. Commissioner Langrell seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

**2022 – 2023 APPROVED SPONSORSHPS & MEMBERSHIPS**

<b>Event/Organization</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Includes</b>	<b>FY 2022</b>
MLAW Fall Conference	November 2023	Platinum Sponsorship & 24 Admissions	\$1050
MLAW Membership		Membership	\$125
MCASA Dues		Membership	\$200
Women’s Legislative Briefing (Statewide)	January 2023	Community Sponsor and one ticket	\$257
MCIW WMF Conference	October 2023	Sponsorship	\$200
NACW Membership		Membership	\$275
MD Network Against Domestic Violence		Membership	\$200
NACW Conference Sponsorship			\$1000
Discretionary			\$500
<b>TOTAL:</b>			<b>\$3807.00</b>

## **VII. Announcements**

### **A. Appreciation:**

The MCW officers thanked all the commissioners for their support and hard work. Commissioner Wilson thanked the three officers for their exceptional leadership.

### **B. Nest Meeting Dates:**

- **MCW Executive Committee – Thursday, September 8, 2022 at 4:30 p.m.**
- **MCW Meeting – Thursday, September 15, 2022 at 5:00 p.m.**

Commissioners asked whether the meetings will be in-person, virtual, hybrid, or some combination of some in-person and some virtual meetings. Commissioner Sepe offered to work with the staff to design a poll of the commissioners to determine what the majority prefers.

## **IX. Election of MCW Officers**

Nominations have been received for the following three officer positions for terms of two years, to take effect immediately following the election:

Chair – Tawanda Bailey  
First Vice Chair – Maxine Somerville  
Second Vice Chair – Roberta Pardo

Commissioner P. Lambert moved election of all three candidates by vote of acclamation. Commissioner Wilson seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Newly elected MCW Chair Tawanda Bailey thanked the Commission for the opportunity to serve as Chair. She said:

“I am looking forward to working with each of the commissioners as they continue to affect change for women and young girls in this great state.

“I am honored to share in this new role alongside our new First Vice Chair, Maxine Somerville and Second Vice Chair, Roberto Pardo, and each of you, my sister Commissioners.

“Allow me to start by saying thank you to our Outgoing Chair, Yun Jung Yang and Second Vice Chair Carole Jaar Sepe. Having the opportunity to serve with you both as Executive Officers for the Maryland Commission for Women these past four years has not only been an honor but also rewarding. As your terms as Chair and Second Vice Chair come to a close, we thank you for your hard work and commitment in helping to effect change for Maryland Women and young girls.

“Yun, under your leadership, I must applaud you, we have accomplished much in the past four years, all originating from the inception of the Listening Tour six year ago. You have certainly given your time and dedication. Yun and Carole both – your warm friendship and support have been very important to me throughout the six years serving as a Commissioner and Vice Chair. Your energy and devotion to the role are peerless and you leave a better and stronger footing for us to follow.

“To my fellow Commissioners: we are grateful and excited to have this group of phenomenal women who bring their talents, expertise and perspectives to the work of the Commission for Women. I am excited and look forward to furthering our vision of ensuring that all women have full social, political and economic equality.”

## **IX. Adjournment**

The outgoing and incoming officers thanked all the Commissioners for their support, and for their time and thoughtfulness in carrying out the work of this evening's meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 7 p.m.

**Respectfully Submitted:** September 9, 2022

**By:** Judith Vaughan-Prather

**Approved:** June 16, 2022