

Maryland Commission for Women

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, February 20, 2020

5 p.m.

45 Calvert Street, Room 158 Annapolis, MD

Commissioners Attending:

Yun Jung Yang, Chair
Tawanda A. Bailey, First Vice Chair
Carole Jaar Sepe, Second Vice Chair
Deborah L. Cartee
Maureen G. Colburn T/C
Amanda L. Costley T/C
Melissa H. Curtin T/C
Kristi S. Halford
Eugenia B. Henry
Lauren M. Lambert
Patricia M. Lambert T/C
Bonnie N. Luna
Brenda J. McChriston
Ishrat N. Memon

Corinna Yi-Yuan Kuo Shen
Evelyne S. Steward
Tamara E. Wilson
Marylou N. Yam

Commissioners Absent:

Tammy Bresnahan
Gloria Chang
April Nyman
Roberta Pardo
Ummu Bradley Thomas

Staff Attending:

Judith Vaughan-Prather, Executive Director

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

A. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:04 p.m. by MCW Chair Yang. She welcomed everyone in attendance and thanked them for coming.

B. Approval of Agenda

The Chair called for approval of the agenda. The Executive Director offered two additional items for discussion. Commissioner McChriston moved approval of the agenda as submitted. Commissioner Halford seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

C. Approval of Minutes of January 16 MCW Meeting

The Chair called for approval of the minutes of last month's meeting. Commissioner Yam moved approval. Commissioner Steward seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

II. Executive Committee Report.....Yang

A. Status of Women in Maryland (SWIM) Research Project

A first draft of the report was received from the contractors conducting the research. It was reviewed and returned to the contractors for revisions. A second draft has been received and will be reviewed and discussed with the contractor before any further work is done.

B. Delaware Commission for Women

At the invitation of the Delaware CFW, the Chair and Executive Director will travel to Wilmington on March 2 to provide a presentation on the conduct of a listening tour similar to the Voices of Maryland Women project. Any commissioners who are interested would be most welcome to participate.

C. Calvert County Commission for Women

The Chair has been invited to present the keynote address at the Calvert County Women of the World (WOW) ceremony on April 18. The Executive Director will accompany her and any commissioners who are interested are invited to attend.

D. USA Today Women of the Century

USA Today is undertaking a nationwide initiative to identify a “woman of the century” from each of the 50 states. Teams were created in each state to review nominations and recommend a list for consideration. The finalists will be determined by the USA Today editorial staff. The MCW Chair was invited to participate on the review and recommendation team for Maryland. It was clear that most of the women under consideration are Maryland Women’s Hall of Fame inductees. A list of 15 “nominations” were reviewed and a shorter list was submitted for consideration.

E. Anniversary Dates for the MCW

The MCW was first established by an Executive Order from the Governor in 1965 and was set in state law in 1971. This means that this year, 2020 is the original Commission’s 55th anniversary year, and next year, 2021, will be the 55th anniversary of the legislation’s passage. The MCW did not recognize its 50th anniversary in 2015, so it might be fitting to find some ways of recognizing these anniversaries this year and/or next.

F. Annual Planning Meeting

For the past several years, the MCW has held its annual planning meeting in June to set its agenda for the coming fiscal year (July 1 – June 30). However, since this summer the MCW is likely to be busy planning the August 26 Women’s Centennial Summit and possibly finishing up the SWIM Report. Commissioner Cartee moved that the MCW hold its 2020 Annual Planning Meeting on September 17. Commissioner Wilson seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

III. Unfinished Business

A. WOW Festival in Baltimore..... Yam

The Notre Dame of Maryland University is hosting the Women of the World Festival at the Columbus Center in Baltimore’s Inner Harbor on March 7. Featured speakers include award-winning TV journalist Soledad O’Brien and former U.S. Treasurer and 2019 Maryland Women’s Hall of Fame inductee Rosie Rios. All commissioners are invited to attend. Commissioner Yam will send a code for a discount on the registration fee.

IV. New Business

A. Governor’s Green Bag Appointments

Each year, the Governor submits his appointments to state boards and commissions on the 40th day of the Maryland General Assembly. Dating back to 17th-century England, the term “Green Bag” refers to the green satchel that is used once every year to bring the gubernatorial nominations to the Senate. It is a longstanding tradition for a member of the governor’s staff

to deliver the bag to the Senate, where the appointments will be considered for confirmation in hearings before the Senate Executive Appointments Committee before the end of this year's MGA session. Five Commissioners current terms will be complete at the end of June: Commissioners Bailey, Cartee, Nyman, Thomas and Wilson. Three, Commissioners Bailey, Cartee and Wilson, have requested appointment to a second term and their names were included in the Green Bag presented to the Senate on February 14. The names of four additional appointees were included to fill two positions being vacated by Commissioners Nyman and Thomas and the two currently vacant positions. All seven appointments must be confirmed by the Senate before becoming "official." In addition, Commissioners Halford and P. Lambert were appointed when the Senate was in recess last year. They both attended a confirmation hearing in the Senate on February 17.

V. Committee Reports

A. PAL (Policy and Legislation) Committee.....Colburn for Bresnahan

The MCW has sent letters for all the bills it supported last year that were re-introduced this year. Commissioner Bresnahan has distributed them to the committees holding hearings on each. These bills are:

- SB210/HB248 - Protective Orders - Relief Eligibility - Rape & Sexual Offenses
- SB225/HB523 - Employee Accommodations: Pregnancy & Childbirth
- HB123/SB217 - Wage History and Wage Range
- HB0242/SB0206 - Criminal Procedure - Motion to Vacate Judgment - Human Trafficking – the True Freedom Act
- HB0608/SB0682 - Correctional Services - Prerelease Unit for Women - Requirement to Operate

Another bill the MCW might want to support is:

- HB0233/SB0212 - Criminal Law - Assault in the First Degree - Suffocation or Strangulation - designating intentional suffocation and strangulation as Assault in the First Degree (Currently it is a second degree offense.)

The MCW approved the first five last year. Commissioner Yam moved approval of support for HB0233/SB0212. Commissioner Curtin seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

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

The Induction and Awards Ceremony will be held on Thursday, March 19, 2020; program at 4 – 6 p.m. and reception at 6 – 7:30 p.m., in the Miller Senate Office Building. Commissioners have volunteered for "day of" tasks for the ceremony. This evening, Commissioners Yam, Luna and Colburn volunteered to serve as Greeters for both the ceremony and the reception. Unfortunately, TV Journalist Denise Koch has found that, due to a scheduling conflict, she has to withdraw her commitment to serve as the Mistress of Ceremonies for this event. Her station may be able to provide a replacement but if not, the three MCW officers and the ARC Committee Chair will handle the duties of the M.C. Already 187 people have registered to attend and 12, including several commissioners and staff, have donated \$100 as "Friends" of the event. More Commissioners committed to support the event as "Friends" this evening. Commissioners were encouraged to plan to arrive at the Miller Senate Office Building by noon on March 19 to help with setting up for the ceremony and reception.

- C. 2020 Women’s Centennial Summit.....Henry and Steward**
The Summit is scheduled for Wednesday, August 26, 2020 in the House Office Building (HOB) with Speaker of the House Adrienne Jones presenting the keynote address. The planning committee is meeting this evening immediately after the MCW meeting. Any commissioners interested in helping plan the event would be most welcome to attend. The caterer, Julie St. Mary, has been selected for the conference. The Governor and First Lady have agreed to host a reception at the end of the conference at Government House. (The Foundation for the MCW will cover the costs.) The committee has decided not to offer seminars specifically for young women as it has been told that many, if not most of the target population for those seminars will not be available that close to the start of school, and it was thought that they might also be very interested in the same seminars offered to everyone.

VI. Liaison Reports

- A. The Foundation for the MCW.....Steward for Shen**
The 100 Women Campaign will be launched soon. It will offer the opportunity for individuals to honor women and girls in their lives to be included in a publication that can be available at the Summit and on the Foundation’s website. Commissioners were encouraged to consider participating.

- B. Maryland Women’s Heritage Center.....Yang**
The MWHC is sponsoring an event in Montgomery County this weekend featuring a dramatic performance by Kate Campbell Stevenson, relating to the Suffrage Campaign. Fliers for that event were included in the packets for tonight’s meeting.

- C. 19th Amendment Commemoration CommissionSteward**
The next meeting of this commission is February. The Commission is a sponsor of the WOW-Baltimore Conference on March 7. The WOW Conference is coordinated by Notre Dame of Maryland University. Commissioner Yam encouraged all commissioners to attend and offered to send them a code that will access a discount on the purchase price of a ticket.

- D. MLAW.....Curtin**
MLAW’s Legislative Briefing and Reception was held last week in Annapolis. Commission Chair Yang, Commissioner Curtin and Executive Director Vaughan-Prather represented the MCW there, where updates from legislators were presented describing the progress of the bills on the MLAW agenda.

- E. 2020 Women Moving Forward Conference.....Curtin and Bailey**
Planning meetings continue for an April 11, 2020 conference in the Maryland Correctional Institute for Women. Vice Chair Bailey attended the planning meeting last week. She will be a co-presenter on a panel on handling grief and loss. The MCW will sponsor the conference with a sponsorship of \$200 to help incarcerated women preparing to re-enter their community, workplace and family.

- F. Maternal Mortality Review Board.....Costley**
The Board is scheduled to meet in about two weeks.

- G. Maryland Women’s History Museum.....Luna**
The Museum Board’s annual Snowball dinner fundraiser will be held this weekend on February 22 in Annapolis. All are invited.

H. UMD SAFE Center.....Costley
No report.

I. Women’s Legislative Briefing.....Colburn
The Briefing was held Sunday, January 26, 2020 at the Universities at Shady Grove. Commissioners Sepe, Memon, Bresnahan, Curtin, Colburn and Chang, along with Executive Director Vaughan-Prather all attended and helped “staff” the MCW’s exhibit table. The MCW was a “Level 4 (\$125) Community Sponsor” of this event. Commissioner Bresnahan was a panelist representing AARP in one of the seminars. There were about 600 in attendance.

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

A. 2020 Events Calendar

As of today, there are 17 events listed on the calendar which is posted on the MCW’s website. More events are added as we become aware of them, and at year’s end, it will be a record of how this historic anniversary was celebrated throughout the state.

B. U.S. D.O.L. Women’s Bureau

“The Women’s Bureau was established in the U.S. Department of Labor on June 5, 1920, by Public Law No. 66-259. The law gave the Bureau the duty to “formulate standards and policies which shall promote the welfare of wage-earning women, improve their working conditions, increase their efficiency, and advance their opportunities for profitable employment.” It also gave the Bureau the authority to investigate and report to the U.S. Department of Labor upon all matters pertaining to the welfare of women in industry. The Women’s Bureau is the only federal agency mandated to represent the needs of wage-earning women in the public policy process.” (<https://www.dol.gov/agencies/wb/about/history>) The Women’s Bureau was instrumental in the establishment of Commissions for Women and over the years has been among their chief supporters. The Department of Labor divides the nation into ten regions. Maryland is in Region 3, along with Virginia, D.C., West Virginia, Delaware and Pennsylvania. A new director for Region 3 has been appointed. Rose Hollandez reached out to the MCW and may want to brief the MCW on Women’s Bureau activities. She may also attend the meeting with the Delaware CFW where the MCW chair and Executive Director will speak,.

C. The Daily Record

A reporter from The Daily Record who is writing an article on the centennial of the 19th amendment called the MCW office. Her article should be published on February 24..

VIII. Announcements

A. Commission VP Bailey to be Honored

MCW First Vice Chair Tawanda Bailey is being honored by the Frederick County CFW as an “Up and Coming Woman of The Year” at the RAW Awards on March 12 at the Ceresville Mansion in Frederick.

B. MNADV 2020 Domestic Violence Conference

The Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence has announced its biannual training conference to be held on May 29 in Annapolis. The theme is *Reclaim. Renew. Restore. Creating Pathways to Resilience.* Registration is available online at:

<https://mnadv.org/registration-is-now-open/>

C. St. Mary’s County CFW 2020 Women’s History Month Banquet – March 19

The St. Mary’s County invited MCW Commissioners to attend its annual banquet, but it is scheduled for the same night at the MCW’s Hall of Fame and Women of Tomorrow Awards Ceremony. We have agreed to try to coordinate dates with each other and all the county CFWs in our state next year to avoid scheduling events on the same days.

D. Next Meeting Dates

- **Hall of Fame and Women of Tomorrow Awards – March 19, 2020 at 4 p.m.,** Commissioners should arrive by noon if possible.
- Executive Committee: Conference call on April 9 at 4:30 p.m. (Conference Call)
- **MCW Meeting: April 16, 2020 at 5 p.m.**

IX. Adjournment.....Yang

The Chair thanked everyone for attending and adjourned the meeting at 6:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Judith Vaughan-Prather, Executive Director
Maryland Commission for Women

APPROVED:
April 17, 2020