

Alexandria Commission for Women

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, May 10, 2022

2525 Mt Vernon Avenue

Multipurpose Room

7:00 pm

MEMBERS PRESENT: Charlotte Scherer (1 absence); Anuja Miner (1 absence); Crystal Kramer; Maxanne “Maxie” Witkin; Ann Harbour (1 absence); Yvette Jiang; Elizabeth “PJ” Palmer Johnson; Lee Taylor-Penn; Emily Eckert and T. Nicole Hutchinson

MEMBERS PRESENT (VIRTUAL): Sarah Porter (1 absence); Sarah Holley (1 absence) and Rochelle Hall (1 absence)

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Jennifer Stowe (1 absence); Jennifer Wetmore (1 absence) and Shelley Brown (1 absence)

OTHER ATTENDEES: Debra Evans, Department of Community and Human Services (DCHS), Domestic Violence Program/Sexual Assault Center (DV/SA); LaTanya Chinagorom, DCHS, DV/SA (virtual)

1. WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Alexandria Commission for Women (ACFW) was called to order by Chair Harbour at 7:06 p.m. with no quorum. The floor was opened for public comment. No public comments were made. The quorum was later met at 7:12 p.m.

2. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE APRIL 2022 MINUTES

Review of the minutes for April 2022 took place. Chair Harbour motioned to approve the minutes. Commissioner Scherer Received second. All were in favor.

3. 2022 RETREAT

Solidify date of retreat: The ACFW Retreat will now be Saturday, September 10, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. at 2525 Mt. Vernon Avenue.

Discussion of City Attorney Response/Joint Policy and Programming: Discussions will focus on policy and programming organization. The Executive Committee reached out to the City Attorney and are awaiting a solid response from them before September 10.

Action Item: Commissioner Witkin will check to see if another Commission has a request for donations online.

Agenda Items for the retreat: Commissioner Wetmore sent information on agenda items by email to Commissioner Kramer. It was suggested to partner with *Alexandria Celebrates Women Now!* to celebrate the Salute to Women awards. The Commission previously was able to raise funds through the *Friends of the Commission for Women*.

Commissioners brainstormed ideas that would be discussed during the retreat. It was mentioned to have a calendar generated for Commission activities. Some ideas shared were to include younger women and women from the LGBTQ community in their spotlight and women in the City of Alexandria in the Zebra Press. Other ideas were assisting women with their voting rights and helping them with the right to vote to include helping with childcare and registration. Other ideas were discussed. It was suggested to have a subgroup that is policy focused and event focused. **Action Item: Commissioner Scherer will provide short biographical sketches on historical Alexandria women by the June 2022 meeting.**

Action Item: Commissioner Kramer will post a Google doc for Commissioners to share ideas for the June 2022 Commission meeting and retreat.

There was an amended motion to draft a letter to City Council outlining the Commissions support in favor of access to women's reproductive health services. **Action Item: The draft will be circulated to the Commission members at least a week prior to the June 2022 Commission meeting.**

4. EXECUTIVE BOARD ELECTIONS

Debra Evans provided the nominations for the 2022 Commission Executive Board Elections on behalf of Commissioner Palmer Johnson which included First Vice Chair Krystal Kramer for Chair, Commissioner Anuja Miner for First Vice Chair and Second Vice Chair Shelley Brown for Second Vice Chair. Commissioner Palmer Johnson recommended accepting the slate by acclamation. No nominations were offered from the floor. Chair Harbour seconded the motion to accept the slate by acclamation. The new Executive Committee is now Chair Kramer, First Vice Chair Miner, and Second Vice Chair Brown. **Action Item: Commissioner Hall will send the letter to Commissioner Kramer on the language of voting. Commissioner Kramer will forward to the City Attorney for review.**

Bylaws were updated during this session.

5. OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES

A call for a volunteer to assist in updating SharePoint and DCHS City website. Commissioner Miner volunteered to work with Debra Evans and LaTanya Chinagorom on the City website updates. Commissioner Scherer will work with SharePoint. All Commissioners should have access to SharePoint.

Action Item: First Vice Chair Kramer will circulate information she gets on what is needed for the one-pagers and circulate to the Commission.

6. NEW AND ONGOING BUSINESS

- DV/SA Subcommittee (Co-chairs Nicole and Jenn) – None reported.
- Affordable Housing Subcommittee (Chair - Krystal) – None reported.
- Commission on Human Rights:
 - On April 19, 2022, the Alexandria Human Rights Commission held its first in person meeting at City Hall. Guests were Natalie Talis and Dr. David Rose, Alexandria Health Department. commissioners are asked to send Commissioner Palmer Johnson an email. She will send a copy of their presentations.
 - Vice Chair Lisl Brunner conducted the meeting in absence of Chair, Matt Harris/
 - The Executive Committee was unable to meet at its regularly scheduled meeting; the Fair Housing Testing Report Status will be given at another time.
 - The next meeting of the Alexandria Human Rights Commission will be Tuesday May 17, 2022
- Commission on Aging: Commissioner Stowe provided the following minutes to the Commission via email:

“Report from APD Officer Ian Torrance:

- Updated group on catalytic converters theft in Arlington and Alexandria. Regional problem. Recommended to Park in well-lit area. Residence cameras may “capture” suspect. Share footage if necessary.
- Body Cameras - program just beginning. Federal funding received. Looking at equipment. Been in contact with jurisdictions that have existing programs. Maybe December 2022 Sergeants will have them.

Welcomed new members to the Commission.

Special Presentation

Kevin Coleman, city of Alexandria’s Office of Emergency Management He addressed the Commission on what their office does as well as Emergency Preparedness. OEM reports to fire department. Their mission is to save lives, protect property and speed recovery before, during and after major emergencies. 4 personnel. They coordinate internally and externally, communicate and collaborate.

- Things that could impact/disrupt:
 - Flooding
 - Storms
 - Tornadoes
 - Winter weather
 - Terrorism
 - Dam failure
- Recent events:
 - 5.8 earthquake 8/11/11
 - Flooding - multiple events, increasing in frequency Winter storms - January 2022 Simpson Field
 - Shooting- June 14, 2017 Train/Metro derailments - 2018 and 2021
- What can you do to be prepared?
 - Be informed, know hazards, sign up for alerts
 - Make a plan, where will you go, emergency contacts
 - Build a kit - documents, food, water Practice
- Things to consider:
 - Self-sufficient 72 hours (water 1 gallon per person per day. Pets too Power to operate medical equipment
 - 2 weeks of medication
 - Full gas tank
 - Someplace to go
 - Important information written down
- Steps you can take today:
 - Sign up for city/weather alerts
 - Update your plan (contacts, phone numbers, meeting spot)
 - Build/update your kit (water, food, flashlight, medicine, important documents, cash)

Executive Committee Report

Update on Excellence in Aging Awards by Zoom on Tuesday, May 10.

Home Fit presentation available for ways to update your home as you age. Presented by Commissioners Jane King and Bob Effert.

Age friendly reports will be sent to AARP.

Draft Annual Plan for FY 2023 Housing and Community Development. Commissioner Michael Schuster, presented a summary of testimony he plans to present -April 23 and solicited comments from COA. Motion to approve passed.

COVID - vaccination update 76.6% fully vaccinated in City of Alexandria as of 4/13/22.

Liaison and Committee Reports

23 liaison reports/8 committee updates.

Chris Moore with the Alexandria Division of Aging and Adult services shared that they are Looking for volunteers to help with older adults - Ombudsman Program

No other business, new business, or public comments.

Next meeting will be held on Thursday, May 12, 2022, 4-6 pm via Zoom. The June meeting will be in person.

Meeting adjourned at 5:53 pm.”

- Commission on HIV/AIDS: The Commission currently has 8 Commissioners and will create a calendar that will include national HIV/AIDS events. June is Pride Month.
- DASH Representative Report Out – Report out was provided by Commissioner Jiang.
- DVP/SAC Wishlist - https://www.target.com/gift-registry/gift-giver?registryId=6bcf0c70-bc6c-11eb-9092-54ed1d7afa55&lnk=registry_custom_url&type=CHARITY
 - *Pride Events for June* – LGBTQ Task Force will host the Pride Festival being held June 4, 1pm – 4pm, Charles Houston Rec Center. This will be the first event held outside. There will be a proclamation. Presentations will be held during the month of June.
- *Zebra Articles* – Commissioners were asked to read an article in the *Zebra Press*. A small discussion was held. Commissioner Scherer will write for the next edition of the *Zebra Press*.
- General Updates

Adjournment

Chair Kramer motioned to adjourn the meeting; Commissioner Palmer Johnson moved. All were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 8:48 p.m.

Important Dates / Reminders / Announcements

- ✓ **LGBTQ+ Awareness Month (June)**
- ✓ **Domestic Violence Awareness Month (October)**
- ✓ **Breast Cancer Awareness Month (October)**