

Alexandria Commission for Women

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, November 8, 2022

301 King Street, Rm. 2000

7:00 pm

MEMBERS PRESENT: Crystal Kramer; Emily Eckert; Yvette Jiang; Shelley Brown; Sarah Porter (1 excused absence); Jennifer Wetmore (1 excused absence)

MEMBERS PRESENT (VIRTUAL):; Jennifer Stowe (1 excused absence)

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Sarah Holley (3 excused absences) and Elizabeth “PJ” Palmer Johnson (2 excused absences); Anuja Miner (1 excused absence); Maxanne “Maxie” Witkin (1 excused absence); Charlotte Scherer (1 unexcused absence); T. Nicole Hutchinson (1 excused absence/1 unexcused); Lexi White (1 excused absence) Ann Harbour (2 excused absences); Lee Taylor-Penn (2 excused absences)

OTHER ATTENDEES: Debra Evans, Domestic Violence Program/Sexual Assault Center (DVP/SAC), Department of Community and Human Services (DCHS) and LaTanya Chinagorom (DVP/SAC, DCHS); Sara Awadalsayed (member of the public) Intern with Friends of Guest House

1. WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER/PUBLIC COMMENT

The meeting of the Alexandria Commission for Women (ACFW) was called to order by Chair Kramer at 7:17 p.m. Quorum was not met at this time. The agenda was covered except voting. The floor was opened for public comment – Ms. Awadalsayed, Intern with Friends of Guest House introduced herself.

2. VOTE ON RETREAT PLAN

Voting was postponed due to non-quorum.

3. WEBSITE BIO EXAMPLES

Commissioner Stowe used provided bio examples to First Vice Chair Miner and Chair Kramer. The topic will be discussed in the December 2022 Commission meeting.

4. REPORT OUTS FROM SUBCOMMITTEES & COMMISSION LIAISONS

- *Affordable Housing & Transportation:* Commissioner Jiang suggested to invite stakeholders and non-profits to use the gender approach to make impact and is aiming for February and March of 2023 for

implementation. Social media outreach was included in the one-pager to City Council, in which it was suggested to include information about affordable housing and transportation on social media and the Commission's website. It was also suggested that the Commission have one of the subcommittee members devote time to research information. **Action Item: Send Commission website updates to LaTanya Chinagorom.**

- DASH Representative Report Out – Three community outreach events took place. One of the events had good attendance; people expressed their needs. The advisory group had a guided tour on the Duke Street Corridor and the Metro (Braddock Road to Crystal City) where routes were reviewed.
- Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault & Human Trafficking: The subcommittee will hold a program on January 23, 2023, on the topics of human trafficking and sexual assault in Alexandria. The Lee Center is booked from 6 p.m. – 9 p.m. for the program. The actual program will run from 7 p.m. – 9 p.m. Four speakers were confirmed to include Angela Alvarez, Regional Coordinator of Human Trafficking Programs for the Commonwealth of Virginia; Justin Cowden, Human Trafficking Unit for Virginia State Police; Deepa Batal, Director and Co-Founder of Trauma and Hope and Brandi Bynum, Senior DHS Blue Campaign Coordinator. The City Mayor accepted to do opening remarks. Commissioner Stowe will moderate (unless another Commissioner would like to). The subcommittee discussed inviting groups where people can sign up to volunteer, they are preparing questions for the panelists and are discussing promotion of the event. Promotional materials are available. All commissioners were asked to be there for the program, if possible.

Action Items:

- **The Commission will provide information for the flyer to Debra Evans and LaTanya.**
- **The subcommittee will put an article in *Zebra Press*, if possible.**
- **May get a proclamation draft for the event.**
- **All were asked to help publicize it for social media, talk to neighbors and friends, and have the announcement placed in church bulletins.**
- **The Executive Committee will work on posting rights for Instagram.**
- **Chair Kramer will email a letter to City Council within the next week.**
- **Will prepare talking points after the flyer is ready.**
- Reproductive Rights Subcommittee: The subcommittee had not met. One-pager Update: Councilmember McPike gave the Commission's one-pager to the City Attorney. Councilmember McPike will introduce new policies around five key areas: 1) Create funding stream for low income residents in need of abortion care (FY2024); 2) Create a webpage on City website; 3) Work with abortion providers to ensure their safety and security needs are addressed within the limits of

existing Federal case law; 4) Work with the health department to ensure emergency contraceptives are available at each location within the City; 5) Provide additional funding to the Teen Wellness Center for the administration of long acting reversible contraceptives.

A public forum for comment on Saturday, November 12, 2022. Commissioner Eckert stated that she will attend a public forum for comment as a private citizen on November 12, 2022. It was suggested that the Commission should have representation at the November 22nd City Council meeting.

Commissioner Porter shared information on the Teen Wellness Center and bridging the gap between the Center and the Commission. The Teen Wellness Center provides healthcare and contraceptives City-wide. The services and products provided are free. **Action Item: Add Teen Wellness Center information to the Commission for Women social media.**

- Human Rights Commission- No report at this time.
- Aging Commission - A general meeting took place in October 2022 on Nova Aging Network and legislative priorities an expanding public access and transparency by allowing all virtual meetings. Legislative Director, Sarah Taylor was the speaker. Information about increasing the timeline from 5 to 14 days mandatory waiting period after a landlord notifies a tenant in writing of non-payment of rent before they can proceed with the judicial process for eviction. Require conservators to obtain training and the judicial system to provide the training. The Commission on Aging will direct the Department of Corrections to develop a plan to identify special needs to incarcerated older adults and geriatric assistance. They also discussed movable home tax credit.
- HIV/AIDS Commission: No report at this time.
- DVP/SAC Wishlist - https://www.target.com/gift-registry/gift-giver?registryId=6bcf0c70-bc6c-11eb-9092-54ed1d7afa55&lnk=registry_custom_url&type=CHARITY

5. ZEBRA ARTICLES

Information about the January Human Trafficking event should be provided to *Zebra Press* by December 15th or sooner. **Action Item: The flyer will be prepared by December 10, 2022 for the January 2023 Zebra. All Commissioners will collaborate. Action Item: Once the flyer is prepared, send to the Commission Executive Committee for approval and then send it directly to the editor.**

6. NEXT STEPS

Commissioners will determine how they want to proceed with recording their hours (8-hour requirement). This subject is tabled until the December 2023 meeting. **Action Item: The volunteer hours will be included in**

future attendance records for the City Clerk's office. Debra Evans and LaTanya Chinagorom will upload the volunteer log into SharePoint.

Commissioner Wetmore will get ideas from an event planner to assist with planning for 50th anniversary event for the ACFW in 2024. **Action Item: The Commission will create an event subcommittee at the December 2022 meeting.**

Thanks were extended to the Commission for accepting the new format of having subcommittee meetings meet from 8 p.m. – 9 p.m. The Commission Executive Committee is open to comments on how the new format is going.

Adjournment

Chair Kramer adjourned at 7:59 p.m. and subcommittees met.

Important Dates / Reminders / Announcements

- ✓ **HIV/AIDS Awareness Month (December)**
- ✓ **Human Trafficking / Stalking Awareness Month (January)**
- ✓ **Black History Month / Teen Dating Awareness Month (February)**
- ✓ **Women's History (February)**
- ✓ **Sexual Assault Awareness Month (April)**
- ✓ **Children's Mental Health Awareness Month (May)**