

**Alexandria Commission for Women**  
**City Hall, 301 King Street, Room 2000**  
**September 10, 2019**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Maribel Ramos (by phone); T. Nicole Hutchinson; Julie Harbour; Elizabeth “PJ” Palmer Johnson; Brian Morreale; Lateisha Garrett; Rana Wilson; Diana Karczmarczyk; Kendra Martello; Jodie Rubenstein; Anuja Miner

**MEMBERS EXCUSED:** Katherine “Katie” Seifu

**OTHER ATTENDEES:** Debra Evans, Department of Community and Human Services (DCHS), Domestic Violence Program/Sexual Assault Center (DV/SA); LaTanya Wooten, DCHS, DV/SA; Shelley E. Brown, visitor

**1. WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting of the Alexandria Commission for Women (ACFW) was called to order by First Vice Chair Hutchinson at 7:08 p.m. The agenda was reviewed and discussed. Jacinta Greene has resigned. Introductions took place.

**2. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF JUNE AND AUGUST 2019 MINUTES**

Review of the June and August 2019 minutes took place. Commissioner Karczmarczyk moved to approve the minutes, which was seconded by Commissioner Martello. It was asked that when ACFW meetings take place that Commissioners ensure confidentiality.

**3. REPORT SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT OUT**

Commissioner Morreale gave report on the event subcommittee in planning for possible events for this year or next year. They are planning a proclamation for next year and will put articles in *Zebra Press* and other publications. They plan to hold one movie night. There are groups that are doing events for the Suffrage 2020 is doing an event. He welcomed fellow Commissioners to present other ideas.

Pat Miller is giving discussions on women’s suffrage across the City. An idea to put in the *Zebra Press* was to give an essay contest for youth and adults and have their writing published in the ACFW’s space. Pat Miller’s group is having a logo contest for her group in Mt. Vernon on September 25, 2019. It was asked that Commissioners do some strategic planning that we want to do.

Commissioner Miner spoke with Amy Jackson, Councilwoman, about the Women's Suffrage 100th Anniversary and was told that City Council has no plans to do an event and is looking to ACFW to do an event. ACFW is working with them to pass the proclamation.

#### **4. 2019/2020 EVENTS: VOLA LAWSON BREAST CANCER FUND UPDATE**

Commissioner Garrett reported there is a higher instance of breast cancer of women in the City and women of color are more likely to die from breast cancer. The Vola Lawson Fund that has been around for eight years partners with George Washington University. The Fund and GW are reevaluating their partnership. The Fund met with Breast Care for Washington in Ward 8, Washington, DC. This organization has seen 106 women from Alexandria. They have 3D mammography and have walk-in appts. They also help clients enroll in Medicaid. They offer a lot of services that other partners don't offer. The Fund is working a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with them. They just acquired a free Mammovan of their own, which will be operating by September 23, 2019. They will test it and are interested in partnering the Mammovan as well. It was noted that there is a cost increase for 3D mammography.

The Fund noticed the number of referrals of clients from the Association of Alexandria Radiologists (AAR) plummeted. About eight new doctors came aboard who were unaware that the Fund existed. In August 2019 the number of referrals jumped from zero to eight.

The Spring 2 Action goal for the Fund was not met. They want to be able to replace the money they spend. For 12 women per month, the Fund spends \$27K. Nell Callahan is working with the Fund to go over financials in April. They also asked her for help with media. She is unavailable in October but will try to work it out.

**Action Item: Commissioners were asked if they had any ideas on media consultants or PRs that are interested.**

The Fund thought they could raise \$14K where a large portion came from AAR. AAR usually does an annual fashion show, although there will be no fashion show this year. Spring 2 Action and the month of October are major fundraising times. The Fund put together a fundraising plan. The following businesses still participate in fundraising:

Yates

Bloomers (King St.)

Pacers

Virtue Feed & Grain

Vola's – Spring 2 Action (percentage)

**Action Item: Commissioner Miner asked fellow Commissioners to show their support in the social media platform and attendance.** There are three rotary clubs which donate money, but the Commission will have to apply online. **Action Item: Commissioner Palmer Johnson PJ will speak up on the Fund's behalf.**

Upcoming events: Oakland Baptist Church, Annual Walk that includes a \$10 donation. The church will try to match it or give up to \$1k. They issue the check during a Sunday service. **Action Item: Commission Wilson said that she will check with Vola Board members.**

T-shirt sales: Firefighters will be selling t-shirts and the Fund will be a beneficiary of it. The Fund will not do the farmer's market this year. Last year \$250 was earned at the farmer's market. We are creating new t-shirts. The Vola Lawson Fund nor the Commission will be a part of those sales.

ACT for Alexandria will do an October push around breast cancer and will give the Fund higher priority in this push. Friends of the Alexandria Commission for Women said the Commission can use their list to call donors. Think about the Commissioners how much would you personally contribute. The fund has presentations if the Commission needs to come speak. **Action Item: The Commission was encouraged to ask people for funding. Action Item: Commissioners can put their goal and the link and request help via Facebook. Commissioner Garrett will put a list together of Commissioner's donors who previously have given and will contact the Rotary Club.**

Ten bins of the old t-shirts have been stored and the Commission has decided to part with the t-shirts. They will be donated to the shelters and social services.

## **5. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Executive Session was closed by a motion from Commissioner Wilson and seconded by Commissioner Rubenstein.

## **6. OLD BUSINESS/NEW BUSINESS**

The Silent Witness Proclamation and Candlelight Vigil will be held Thursday, October 24, 2019, Market Square. A flyer is to come. Market Square will feature 21 witnesses which are life-size figurines that have a shield on each that tells a story of how each individual was killed. The focus is on the correlation between domestic violence and animal abuse. During the month of October, there will be tabling throughout the City,

magnets for the cruisers will be on there and the Clothesline Project will take place. Action Item: Commissioners were asked to attend the Silent Witness event.

The Children's Holiday Party will take place Thursday, December 19, 2019, at First Baptist Church of Alexandria. Volunteers are needed along with donations of toys and gift cards for all the clients.

ACFW is adding Sexual Orientation to the bylaws and mission statement. The discussion at the retreat was to add "gender" to the Commission's mission statement to add gender identity.

Congressman Byers' Salute to Women's conference will be held Saturday, October 12, 8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. at the George Mason University campus in Arlington. ACFW will have table out front to explain who the Commission is and what we do. It was suggested that the Commission have a banner for events and that a decision be made on a logo. **Action Item: Commissioner Palmer Johnson will take care of the sign up and logistics. Action Item: Debra Evans will revisit the logo.** All receipts for purchase should go to Pat Miller or Chair Ramos.

A volunteer opportunity for Breast Cancer Awareness will be circulated through email and will include information that was shared about the Vola Lawson Fund. **Action Item: Commissioner Martello will forward the email from Nechelle Terrell.**

### **Adjournment**

Commissioner Garrett made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 p.m. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Palmer Johnson.

### **Important Dates / Reminders / Announcements**

**The next Meeting is October 8, 7 pm**

**Domestic Violence Awareness Month**

**October 24: Silent Witness Candlelight Vigil**

**December 19: Children's Holiday Party**