

Alexandria Commission for Women

Virtual Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, January 9, 2024

7:00 pm

MEMBERS PRESENT: Anuja Miner (1 excused absence); Maxanne “Maxie” Witkin; T. Nicole Hutchinson; Jennifer “Jenn” Stowe; Yvette Jiang; Matthew Worner (1 excused absence); Nia Miller (1 excused absence); Jennifer Wetmore (1 excused absence)

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Crystal Kramer (2 excused absences); Shelly Brown (1 excused absence); Elisabeth “PJ” Palmer Johnson (1 excused absence); Lexi White (1 excused absence); Rachel Brill-Meckler (2 excused absences) and Emily Eckert (1 excused absence)

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, Kristen McCarthy and Kristen Kenner

1. WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER/PUBLIC COMMENT

The January 2024 meeting of the Alexandria Commission for Women (ACFW) was called to order by First Vice Chair Miner at 7:02 p.m. This meeting was held virtually only via Zoom and was made open to the public for comment. Commissioners Shelley Brown and Rachel Brill-Meckler were attending the City Council meeting for acceptance of the Human Trafficking Awareness Month proclamation.

2. APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER DECEMBER 2023 MINUTES

The November and December 2023 minutes review and approval took place with one correction. First Vice Chair Miner asked for a motion to approve the minutes as amended. Commissioner Stowe moved to approve the minutes; all were in favor, none opposed.

3. 50th ANNIVERSARY PLANNING COMMITTEE UPDATES AND NEXT STEPS

Venue Subcommittee – Commissioners Witkin and Stowe met last Friday, January 5th. They discussed food, beverages, and decorations. The following are different plans they produced: A) If the Commission had cash, they will implement all they would like to do for the event. B) If they have some cash, they can provide items needed themselves. C) Cookies and punch that they make can be provided. They can reach out to the Master Gardeners of Alexandria about helping to provide flower arrangements for table decorations (in fall colors – sunflowers or mums). For photography, they were going to reach out to Lucelle O’Flaherty, *Zebra Press*, who

can provide publicity. It was discussed to reach out again to Vice Mayor Amy Jackson. **Action Item: The final date for the budget is May 2024.**

Fundraising Subcommittee – Commissioner Hutchinson will set up a meeting this and will provide information to the full Commission soon. They will meet with some previous donors and set standards for fundraising within the Commission.

Publicity Subcommittee – First Vice Chair Miner shared that she knows an intern that is a graduate student at GW who could possibly create a logo. It was suggested by Jacinta Green to find a graphic artist outside of the high school. **Action Item: First Vice Chair Miner will have a conversation with Jacinta Green.**

4. DISCUSSION OF UPCOMING EVENTS REQUIRING ACFW VOLUNTEERS/PARTICIPATION

Domestic Violence Bookmarks at Alexandria City Metro Stations – Chair Kramer will send out a Doodle poll. It was suggested to get it out within the week and to pass out. Action Item: Commissioner Wetmore volunteered to coordinate people's schedules to pair up and to collate the items.

Social Media – Commissioner Worner shared that the new Facebook (FB) page has been established (December 15, 2023). FB administrative rights were given to Debra Evans and First Vice Chair Miner – not tied to a password, but to post administration and it can cross-post to an Instagram page. He researched women's history collection for some social media posts that can lead up to the event and set up a governance document. To-date the FB page has 51 followers. Commissioner Eckert has been posting on Instagram.

Action Item: Commissioner Worner will share the governance document with Commissioners.

Commissioner Wetmore suggested coverage for both Instagram and FB platforms.

5. REPORT OUTS FROM SUBCOMMITTEES & COMMISSION LIAISONS

- *Affordable Housing & Transportation Subcommittee* – This subcommittee has not met yet, but they are aiming to enter the New Year with a new purpose. Commissioner Jiang would like the director or the staff members to come to speak with the Commission for Women. There was a launch of community engagement on home conditions; they will continue monitoring. Various housing projects going on in the City like the Southern Towers.
- *Survivor's Support Subcommittee* – This subcommittee will drop brochures at coffee shops in support of Human Trafficking Awareness Month. They supported the Domestic Violence Children's Holiday Party, there was a great turn out. **Action Item: All were asked to post pictures of the event on social media. All were asked to wear blue and take pics on January 11th on National Human Trafficking Awareness Day to post on social media.** DVP/SAC donation/gift registry:
https://www.target.com/gift-registry/gift-giver?registryId=6bcf0c70-bc6c-11eb-9092-54ed1d7afa55&lnk=registry_custom_url&type=CHARITY

- Reproductive Rights – The letter that the Commissioners signed for the Grayson County hearing in December 2023 did not pass. Commissioner White testified there. Some Commissioners attended the hearing online. Men and women testified during the hearing. The vote was four against implementing the ordinance and one in favor. Commissioner White was effective in her remarks and stated that she was representing the Commission for Women.
- Human Rights (HR) Commission – Commissioner Palmer Johnson was not present. No report at this time.
- Commission on Aging - The Commission on Aging’s next meeting is Thursday, January 11th.
- HIV/AIDS Commission – This Commission did not meet due to World Aids Day.
- DASH Representative Report Out – DASH met with the new Environmental Services Director who had experience in California and Texas. The DASH Advisory Committee asked about the budgeting process, future buses, and rapid transit. DASH is celebrating its 40th anniversary March 9, 2024, at the Masonic Temple. It will be open to deaf members, to the board, to staff members. The following week in March, DASH will have community engagement events to celebrate riders, 40 years. They will have results for the onboard and fare-free surveys soon. **Action Item: The 40th Anniversary event will be added to the Commission for Women calendar.**
- Commissioner/City Council Engagement – Commissioner Witkin reported an informal event that Councilwoman Gaskins was in attendance who stated that she was appreciative of the Commission for Women’s work.

Next Steps/Adjournment: First Vice Chair Miner called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Worner motioned to adjourn the meeting and Commissioner Stowe seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 7:36 p.m.