

Alexandria Commission for Women
City Hall, 301 King Street, Room 2000
January 12, 2021

MEMBERS PRESENT: Julie Harbour; Marie Divine; Amanda Keiser; Ann Harbour; Yvette Jiang; Diana Karczmarczyk; Elizabeth “PJ” Palmer Johnson; Jodie Rubenstein; Uzma Quraishi; Katherine “Katie” Seifu and Gayle Terry T. Nicole Hutchinson; Crystal Kramer and Brian Morreale

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Shelley Brown

OTHER ATTENDEES: Debra Evans, DCHS, Domestic Violence Program/Sexual Assault Center (DV/SA) and LaTanya Chinagorom, DCHS, Center for Children and Families, DV/SA

1. WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Alexandria Commission for Women (ACFW) was called to order by Chair Harbour at 7:02 p.m. The notice for the City of Alexandria virtual requirements were read. The floor was opened for public comment and introductions.

2. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF DECEMBER 2020 MINUTES

There was a request to amend the December 2020 minutes. It was stated in the December 2020 minutes that Commissioner Palmer Johnson agreed to work on a group to have Councilwoman Del Pepper placed in the Alexandria Hall of Fame. Commissioner Palmer Johnson stated she agreed to work on a salute to Del Pepper Day, somewhat in the nature of what the Commission has done for Patsy Ticer as opposed to putting Councilwoman Pepper in the Alexandria Hall of Fame. There was a second motion to approve the minutes as amended by Chair Harbour. First Vice Chair Karczmarczyk moved to approve the minutes from the last meeting amended as stated. Commissioner Palmer Johnson seconded the motion. All were in favor, none opposed. The amendment to the December 2020 minutes was nulled after listening to the transcripts.

4. ROLE CALL/INTRODUCTIONS

Role call and introductions took place for Commissioners and City staff.

5. PLANNING FOR THE UPCOMING YEAR

The Commission previously agreed to be less event focused; thus, focusing on developing policy recommendations and working with City Council to address the needs of women in the City of Alexandria.

The Commission will break into subcommittees to divide the work. A list of function-based committees and topic-based committees were options that were presented to the Commission. The Commission geared toward topic-based committees (healthcare, transportation, housing). The Executive Committee will provide a roadmap and overarching guidance to the subcommittees.

The Commission will break out in two subcommittee meetings during the February 2020 meeting. The floor was opened to what the focus should be for the remainder of the year, 2021. Only City Zoom accounts can be used for meetings. It was noted that when the Commission meets in person, the meetings are not limited to two meetings. The Commission is aiming to be a clearinghouse that connects people to resources that exist. It was suggested that the Commission review what other City groups have done in regard to mental health, such as the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP), the Children and Youth Master Plan (CYMP) and RAISE (Resilience Alexandria: Inform Support Elevate {trauma-informed network}) to prevent the Commission from starting from scratch.

Four topics were suggested as subcommittees: Crisis support (domestic and sexual violence); Transportation (engage with DASH); Economic opportunities (access to jobs), and Housing.

It was suggested that the Commission should advocate for a designated City staff person to do asset mapping to ensure people know what services are available and to identify community partners who will inform the Commission on what is happening in the City. It was noted that the Alexandria Health Department has been interested in seeing additional resources dedicated to asset mapping around all the social determinants of health. It was also suggested that the Commission start creating documentation that will help inform City Council on women's issues so that they can bring awareness to the level of sophistication that the Commission would need. It was agreed that a liaison should reach out to the Alexandria Economic Opportunities Commission.

A vote took place on the four topic-based subcommittees to determine the top two. Second Vice Chair Seifu will update a Google Doc where Commissioners will choose which subcommittee they will sign up for. **Action Item: The Google Doc link will be sent to Commissioners by Second Vice Chair Seifu for Commissioners to sign up for the subcommittee of their choice. Commissioners will include in the document their background function/interest in their selection.**

6. VOTING FOR LIAISON HIV/AIDS COMMISSION MEMBER

Commissioner Hutchinson shared why she is interested in the position of Liaison HIV/AIDS Commission. Previously, there were two Commissioners interested. Commissioner Harbour motioned to nominate

Commissioner Hutchinson to serve as their HIV/AIDS Liaison. Commissioner Rubenstein seconded the motion. All were in favor; none opposed. Second Vice Chair Seifu announced that Commissioner Hutchinson is now the new Liaison for the HIV/AIDS Commission.

7. OLD/NEW BUSINESS

- Old Business: Chair Harbour and First Vice Chair Karczmarczyk met with Pat Miller. Pat Miller has a new 501(c)(3) called *Alexandria Celebrates Women*. They would like to hold the Salute to Women event Spring 2021. They are determining support. Questions were drafted to send to the City Attorney to find out how the Commission can support a nonprofit entity. There was conversation with Pat Miller on whether the new nonprofit can take over the Salute to Women event. The entity will continue to have all the proceeds benefit victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. The Commission will partner without the fundraising aspect. **Action Item: Chair Harbour will ask Pat Miller as to when the Salute to Women event information will go out to the public.**

It was suggested that the Commission be involved in the selection or nomination process or voting since the Commission is not connected to Alexandria Celebrates Women. This suggestion will be added to the list of questions that Chair Harbour will submit to the City Attorney. **Action Item: Commissioners were asked to submit questions for the City Attorney to Chair Harbour by the afternoon Wednesday, January 13, 2021.**

- New Business: The Virtual Legislative Advocacy Day is January 26 & 27. The focus this year is restoring investments for the newly established sexual and domestic violence prevention fund. Commissioners can attend as a body to provide support. **Action Item: Debra Evans is getting time and meeting schedules for this event. All were asked to contact her if they have questions or if registering to attend.**
- Commission Report Outs:
 - *Human Rights:* The next meeting of the Human Rights Commission will be Tuesday, January 19. Clare Garvie, Senior Associate, Center on Privacy & Technology at Georgetown Law, Georgetown University, will speak about facial recognition technology. The Alexandria Police Chief will be there to discuss techniques that the police will be using regarding facial recognition technology as well. **Action Item: Commissioners were invited to join the meeting or submit questions or comments to Commissioner Palmer Johnson.**

- *Aging*: The next meeting for the Commission on Aging is Thursday, January 14, 4 p.m. The agenda topics include accessory dwelling units and housing, how it affects older adults. Natalie Talis, Alexandria Health Department is also on the agenda. Commissioners were invited to join the meeting.

8. Adjournment

First Vice Chair Karczmarczyk moved to adjourn the meeting. Chair Harbour motioned to adjourn the meeting. None opposed. The meeting was adjourned at 8:18 p.m.

Important Dates / Reminders / Announcements

- ✓ **National Teen Dating Violence Awareness & Prevention Month (TDVAM) (February)**
- ✓ **Salute to Women (March)**
- ✓ **TODSTWD (April 23)**
- ✓ **SAAM Events (April)**
- ✓ **Women's History Walk (May)**
- ✓ **Domestic Violence Awareness Month (October)**
- ✓ **Breast Cancer Awareness Month (October)**