

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

**Minutes**

**January 8, 2019**

**7:25 p.m. – 9:15 p.m.**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Anuja Miner; Elizabeth “PJ” Palmer Johnson; Jacinta Green; Kendra Martello; Julie Harbour; Liz Johnson; Maribel Ramos; Monika Jones; Rana Wilson; Lateisha Garrett; Thao Nguyen and T. Nicole Hutchinson

**MEMBERS EXCUSED:** Brian Morreale and Amy Jackson

**OTHER ATTENDEES:** Lynn Jordan, Co-chair, Friends of the Alexandria Commission for Women (FACFW), Stacey Hardy-Chandler, Department of Community and Human Services (DCHS) Center for Children and Families (CCF); Debra Evans, DCHS/Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault (DV/SA); LaTanya Wooten, DCHS/CCF/DV/SA; Katie Seifu, Volunteer; Kaylie Cook, volunteer and Tracy Harris, City employee

**1. WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting of the Alexandria Commission for Women (ACFW) was called to order by Commissioner Martello at 7:25 PM. Role was called by LaTanya. Other attendees introduced themselves.

**2. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF DECEMBER 2018 MINUTES**

Edits to the December 11, 2018, meeting was provided. A motion was made to approve the edits. Motion was seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Minutes, as edited, were approved by Chair Martello.

**3. GUEST SPEAKERS – Natalie Talis and Brandie Temple, Alexandria Health Department**

The Alexandria Health Department provided a hardcopy PowerPoint presentation entitled, *Community Themes and Strengths Assessment: Summary of survey results for the Commission for Women* (see attachment) was provided in which they presented the overview of the Community Health Assessment (CHA) process. CHA is what all health departments do across the country to get a better sense of what is going on in the community and to see all different aspects of the community. The data collected was by convenience. They had pop up tables at various locations in the community to collect information.

The Health Department pulled community data and will release a report in June about the top eight health issues. They will have a forum online where the community will see the top eight issues and allow the

community to weigh in on them. Community responses will be used to help build a community health improvement plan (CHIP.) The CHIP will be narrowed down to two or three main issues (from the eight) and will be data driven over a span of six years.

The HealthMattersAlexandria.org website is a data dashboard where statistics can be found. Diversity and opportunities in the community were big topics that arose.

**Action Item: Health Department will send specific data and address any questions the Commission has for them at a later time. They will also send additional breakdowns of the numbers.**

*Next steps on breast and other cancers:* The Health Department discussed that they would recommend working cohesively with community groups and non-profit organizations on how to let the community know that the groups and organizations exist so that efforts would not be duplicated.

**Action Item: Commissioner Martello will meet with Natalie and Brandie after the meeting on developing the list of non-profits and to work further on these efforts.**

#### **4. ELECTIONS – First and Second Vice Chair**

Commissioner Morreale previously sent an email asking for nominations for the ACFW elections for First and Second Vice Chair. He received nominee, Commissioner Hutchinson for Second Vice Chair and Commissioner Ramos for First Vice Chair.

Commissioner Miner conducted the election in Commissioner Morreale's absence. A motion was made by Commissioner Palmer Johnson moved that they vote by activation both Commissioners Ramos and Hutchinson because they were the only ones nominated for each position. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Garret.

#### **5. SALUTE TO WOMEN (STW)**

The STW subcommittee decided on The Lyceum as the place where the STW event will be held. The Lyceum agreed to rent the facility for \$170 for six hours, \$50 extra for the projector. The Lyceum will have an exhibit available to open.

The next step is to resolve a speaker. Commissioners were asked if they have any suggestions.

The event will be open to 100 attendees maximum.

**Action Item: Friends asked the STW subcommittee to work an event budget to include: expenses, projections, cost for tickets, advertising, refreshments (low or high end) and promotions. Have this information ready before the Friends' board meeting which will be Monday, January 14, 2019.**

**Action Item: It was suggested that the Commission set deadlines for the event due to the limited amount of time.**

**Action Item: Commissioners should submit names of potential speakers to Commissioner Ramos Friday, January 11, 2019. Move forward on a speaker by choosing one or two.**

**Action Item: Commissioner Martello requested to see Friends accounting soon.**

**Action Item: Commissioner Harbour and Katie will attend the Friends meeting on Monday, January 14, 2019.**

**Action Item: Commissioner Martello will send out an email with the finance information and ensure Commissioners Harbour and Katie have the information for the meeting.**

Debbie noted that with the government shut down it can significantly impact the DV/SA survivor funding.

**Action Item: Commissioner Martello stated that this should be part of a broader discussion we should have as to what the Commission can do to raise funds. It could be something the Commission could use to highlight the event and potentially sell tickets.**

The Commissioners that are on the Banquet Committee: Commissioners Hutchinson, Morreale, Miner, Harbour and Katie.

Commissioner Palmer Johnson moved that in the interest of the Commission having two months to the STW event that they allow the committee to finalize the event and make a report out to the Board. Commissioner Martello seconded the motion.

## **6. REPORT ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN: Next Steps**

Commission Garret and Martello discussed sending out an editorial calendar where the Commission would draft op-eds that they can place in City newsletters and Zebra Press. They want to draft these pieces throughout the year. Need Commissioner volunteers.

Maribel drafted an op-ed for the STW and Commissioner Martello is reporting to the Republican Women's Association next week. Commissioners were asked if they had any requests to let them know.

#### **7. TODSTWD (Take Our Sons and Daughters to Work Day)**

Commissioner Greene is recruiting new sponsors and mentors for the April 2019 event. All hands on deck – ACFW asks that Commissioners participate at some point during the day, but prefer them to come all day for the program. The theme this year is *Workforce Development for All*. Commissioner Greene had a meeting with ACPS since the ACFW's last meeting. The goal is still to have 150 students attend. The City workforce program came on board last year. The program needs volunteers to reach out to various businesses. They will have six different tracks this year.

**Action Items: They will put together a list. Commissioners were asked if they have any volunteers to business to bring aboard to let her know. Debbie will reach out to the City's Workforce Development Center.**

Volunteer training will take place. New people at T.C. Williams are getting acclimated to the program. Commissioner Wilson is working with Commissioner Green on this.

The question was raised if the Commission has ever gone to churches or synagogues. Commissioner Greene said the students never shown interest in it, but that the Commission provides a list of career choices to the kids that offer what the Commission does for careers.

#### **8. OLD/NEW BUSINESS**

*New Business:* A flyer on a musical in which proceed will provide funding for students. (See attachment)

It was shared that campaigns will take place for Virginia's campaign the Equal Rights Amendment. Lisa Sales – Fairfax County Commission on Women would like to come meet with ACFW.

Amendment to 9-1-1 calls to allow the operators to ask more questions before responding to domestic calls is coming out.

*DV/SA Staff Update:* DV/SA reported that currently they do not know how VAWA funding is going to impact the program or if it will be reauthorized. It was shared that R&B singer R. Kelly's documentary was aired and

it showed child sexual assaults. The DV/SA hotlines will probably be busy. The City sent an eNews on the subject and where DV/SA services are. Safe House is gearing up for the increased activity. Calls for service in strangulation cases and misdemeanor cases have been active.

*Old Business:* The DV/SA Children's Holiday Party was great. Over 50 volunteers were there. McDonald's donated. They teamed up with the Pipe Hitters who volunteered to assist.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 PM by Commissioner Martello.

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

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