

ALEXANDRIA COMMISSION FOR WOMEN
MINUTES
TUESDAY, MARCH 10, 2026
VIRTUAL

7 PM

ATTENDANCE: Jennifer Beatty; Yvette Jiang; Annette Maldonado; Eva Bastianon; T. Nicole Hutchinson; Krystle Bransky, Lexi White; Rev. Dr. Shelley Brown and Giovanna Rogow

VIRTUAL: Dr. Vanita Datta; Dr. Elisabeth Palmer Johnson and Kafi Joseph,

EXCUSED ABSENCE: Hope Nelson; Necola Shaw and Caroline Schofield

STAFF

Debra Evans
LaTanya Chinagorom

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

None.

WELCOME AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Chair Bastianon welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 7:29 p.m. and gave thanks to Commission members who attended the City Council meeting to receive the 2026 39th Women's History Month Proclamation at 7:00 p.m.

APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 2026 MINUTES

Chair Bastianon moved to approve the February 2026 meeting minutes. First Vice Chair Jiang so moved. The minutes were approved as presented.

WEBSITE BIO REMINDER

Commissioners were reminded to update their bios.

HEALTH COALITION EVENTS

Commissioner Hutchinson attended City Councilmember Jacinta Greene's women's health event which was in collaboration with *Alexandria Celebrates Women!* The event was well attended.

Emails on the Health Coalition events (two coalitions) were sent to Commissioners by Commissioner Maldonado. **Action Item: Commission Maldonado will re-send the email for Commissioners.**

FAIRFAX COMMISSION FOR WOMEN BIENNIAL REPORT / BREAKFAST – MARCH 27TH

Commissioner Datta shared that the annual report is an advocacy breakfast. This year she cannot attend. Commissioners Hutchinson and Joseph cannot attend the event as well. Chair Bastianon is interested in attending. **Action Item: All were asked to email Commissioner Datta or Debra Evans will inform the Fairfax Commission for Women on the number of attendees (2 tickets available; the rest may have to fund their own breakfast).**

LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY DAY (SEXUAL AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE)- FEBRUARY 5TH (DISCUSSION)

The City's Legislative Director attended Advocacy Day in Richmond, VA.

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH EVENTS

March 21st is Commissioner Bransky provided information on a Women's event that will take place at the American Legion. March 21st from Noon – 2 p.m. *Alexandria Celebrates Women!* will host a Women's History Walk. March 26th The Gadsby's Tavern will have a women's history event. **Action Item: Chair Bastianon will send the link and information. All were encouraged to send women's events.**

BYLAWS UPDATE/NEXT STEPS

Commissioner Joseph shared slides on what will be produces for the Status of Women Report Update. There will be one to two Commissioners per pillar to coordinate with the volunteers to do updates. Update the management and ensure the work across pillars is consistent. Any Commissioners are leads for the pillars, they will review output of the volunteers and pulling their information together. The volunteers will research and pull information. All information used will be documented. Volunteers have completed an availability survey.

Commissioner Datta asked about funding for printing. The decision to fund the publication has not been made yet. The Commission sent an estimate to the Department of Community and Human Services Communications Division last year. However, the Commission needs to submit a proposal to see if it will be approved for payment. Communications needs to see the document to determine the cost of production.

Report Volunteer Pillar Leads:

1. Economic Security & Vulnerabilities: Commissioner Maldonado
2. Barriers to Opportunities: Chair Bastianon
3. Healthcare: Commissioner White
4. Leadership: Commissioner Joseph
5. Safety: Commissioner Datta

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Commissioner Maldonado shared that her daughter participated in the Mayor's Youth Forum. The representation of girls was low. **Action Item: All were asked to encourage girls from 14 – 18 years to attend these events. Commissioner Maldonado will send the information to Debra for the Commission.**

Commissioner Maldonado also shared that she asked the Alexandria Economic Development Partnership how the Commission can assist them getting the message out on how the Partnership teaches women how to start their own childcare and food businesses and licensing. Commissioner Datta stated that the Small Business Administration is giving the same workshops that will **Action Item: Commissioner Maldonado will send information to the Commission on the May 1st networking session where resources are brought together. Once the networking is done, she will draft a proposal on how they can partner with the Partnership in setting up workshops or a networking hour for women that will take place on June 1st.**

NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

Commissioner Hutchinson noted that the Commission announces nominations every year in March. Chair Bastianon asked Commissioner Palmer Johnson to serve as Chair of the Nominations Committee for the May Commission for Women 2026 elections. Commissioner Palmer Johnson agreed to serve.

SUBCOMMITTEE BREAKOUTS

Chair Bastianon moved that the meeting go into Subcommittee breakouts, which took place from 8:08 p.m. – 9 p.m.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 13, 2026, virtually from 7 p.m. – 9 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:08 p.m. for subcommittee breakouts.