



Frederick County Commission For Women

401 Sagner Avenue
Frederick, MD 21701
(301) 600-1200

CFW@FrederickCountyMD.gov

www.FrederickCountyMD.gov/fccfw

www.Facebook.com/fccfw



Frederick County Commission for Women: Public Meeting

Wednesday, February 22, 2023

7:00pm

Webex Virtual Meeting

COMMISSIONERS

Maura M. Page
President

Kaitlin Moore
Vice President

Cindy Shubin
Recorder

Kate O'Leary
Treasurer

Marguerite Vacca-Kaye
At Large

Melissa Atherholt
Edwina Benites-LM
Lakshmi Darbha
Valerie Dougherty
Lois Jarman
Shauna Mulcahy

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Roll Call of Commissioners and Introduction of Guests

President Maura Page called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. a quorum was present.

Commissioners Present: Maura Page, Melissa Atherholt, Cindy Shubin, Kate O'Leary, Eddie Benites-LM, Valerie Dougherty, Lois Jarmin, Lakshmi Darbha

Commissioners Absent: Kaitlin Moore, Marguerite Vacc-Kaye, Shauna Mulcahy

Special Guests - Councilwoman Renee Knapp - welcomed by Maura Page. Potential future commissioner Sessa Jupudi introduced by Melissa Atherholt.

Lois Jarman motioned to approve the minutes, Kate O'leary seconded, Melissa Atherholt abstained. Commission approved Minutes unanimously from January 2022 meeting.

Speaker: Councilwoman Renee Knapp intended to speak but due to technical difficulties with microphones and Webex she was unable to do so.

I. Committee Reports

A. Executive Committee

1. Treasurer's Report – FCCFW spent \$901.81 in expenses posted to county's account. Because of county budgeting system no revenues to date but some ticket sales will be forthcoming.

B. Outreach Committee – Chair, Lakshmi

1. Events: Upcoming RAW event - Working on outreach for that event. Outreach committee plans to display a table highlighting CFW activities, however, Lakshmi stated a new display is needed.
2. Working on creating an integrated flyer format for all events and it will be presented for the next meeting.
3. Invited speakers 2023: Council member Renee Knapp attended this meeting.

C. Voter Outreach and Education – Chair, Kate

1. Committee met and created flyer for RAW Event

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D. Raving About Women Annual Awards – Chair, Shauna

1. Awards ordered, food decisions made, DJ and photographer in place,
2. Sponsors: 4 so far - MD Now, White Lion Social, Asian American Center of Frederick, Aavanee, and delegate Kris Fair
3. Doorprizes: Atherholt stated 3 have been secured from Wine Kitchen, Weinberg, and Sage Bakery and she will pick them up and bring to the event.
4. Facebook event page has been created and commissioners were asked to share on their social media platforms. Maura reminded the group the event is March 9th, and stated Commissioners should arrive by 5:45

E. Recruitment – Chair, Melissa -

1. Sessa Juputi, Rosario Campos applicants have been interviewed and applications were sent via email to all commissioners Ms. Grossnickle has reviewed the applications and stated they are now able to be recommended to the county for approval. Melissa Atherholt motioned to move into closed session to discuss the two applications, Lakshmi seconded the motion.

CLOSED SESSION: discussed applicant applications – Signed, Closed Meeting Statement should be attached here along with screenshot of notice.

OPEN SESSION:

E. Recruitment Committee continued– Chair, Melissa

1. Maura called for a motion that Rosario Campos and Sessa Juputi be recommended to the county council; Cindy Shubin motioned and Eddie seconded the motion. Motion was passed unanimously.

F. SheLEADS – Chair, Maura.

1. The group met and created their 2nd podcast for the SheSpeaks podcast series - Topic was Time Management.
2. The group is planning their April 23rd Leadership Workshop which may include a panel of early college students and high school students to discuss social media pressures and ways to be prepared for college.

G. Legislative Committee – Chair, Eddie

1. Council decided to delay how recorded message was recorded.

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2. MLAW - had legislative Priority session on January 31st – Eddie attended. In December, FCCFW voted on three priorities and all three were included in the final MLAW legislative packet in the following order:

- 1/8 Reproductive Health Protection Act
- 2/8 Declaration of Rights- Right to Reproductive Liberty
- 5/8 Criminal Law- Sexual Crimes- Repeal of Spousal Defense

3. Montgomery County Legislative Briefing: The Montgomery County Commission for Women's Legislative Briefing was on January 29th. Eddie attended the beginning of the briefing.

4. Frederick County Delegation Meetings Update:

The marriage fee bill was discussed. The delegation does not want Frederick to have the highest marriage fee in State, and has reservations about public funds for private entities, Pippy voiced equity concerns and quoted a Supreme Court ruling providing marriage as a basic right and noted that the bill does not provide the court with the ability to waive the fee for people unable to pay, and some suggest that the fee should be tied to divorce filings instead of marriage filings.

5. Frederick County Council/Board and Commission Appointments: The Frederick County Council and County Executive Fitzwater were officially named to boards and commissions. Councilwoman Renee Knapp was confirmed as the Commission for Women's point person.

6. Amendment: Senior Citizens Local Supplement to Homeowners Property Tax Credit:

Councilman McKay introduced this legislation to increase the property tax credits for

asset-limited seniors. Because Frederick County is slightly more female than male, because women have a slightly longer lifespan than men, and because the lifetime earnings of senior women were especially limited during wage-earning years, senior women disproportionately make up ALICE households. This legislation provides needed relief for senior, ALICE women.

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7. Letters written regarding Tax Credit for Senior Women and Public Comments: Eddie Motioned to approve letters she sent via email to commissioners for property tax credit for senior women Cindy Shubin seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously to approve and send this letter from FCCFW President. 2nd letter - Re: to accept and consider recorded public comments at county council meetings as this greatly benefits women specifically with their busy schedules and other after work/school duties. Eddie motioned to approve this letter, Cindy Shubin seconded and motion passed unanimously

8. Federal Congressional Update: due date is quickly coming early March. Discussion regarding reproductive rights being restricted in VA and WVA - VA proposed 15 wk abortion ban - split in senate no significant changes

as of today. WVA had significant budget surplus and proposed abortion is prohibited in WVA unclear where the funding is going - additional restrictions on abortion are also being looked at. MD - Gov Moore released 3.5 million to train various people to assist with reproductive rights - . 2 bills coming up soon in MD legislature re: reproductive rights for all MD citizens, hearings coming up - 1) right to reproductive freedom - all info in MLAW information sent to commissioners 2) health protection act - constitutional amendment.

9. Meeting Date Change Discussion - Moved to 4th Monday of the month. Eddie stated a bylaws change is needed to finalize the change. Discussed in New Business.

II. Commission Business - OLD BUSINESS: none

III. Commission Business - NEW BUSINESS:

1. Eddie mentioned we need to Designate someone to become trained as the open meeting trainee - They would have 90 days to take the training.
2. Cindy Shubin made a motion to nominate Eddie to be the Open Meetings Act designated commissioner for this fiscal year. Melissa Atherholt seconded for current fiscal year. Vote: Motion passes. Eddie Abstained. However, discussion followed regarding the training on Open Meetings Act and topic was tabled until March Meeting so we can review prior minutes regarding this topic.

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3. Eddie opened discussion regarding the day/time of our monthly meetings and stated the by-laws should be amended. It was brought up that in our current by-laws - Article 5 Section 2 it states the commission will hold monthly meetings the second Tuesday of each month. No meeting will be held with the exception of July when no meeting will be scheduled. July is when the commission traditionally holds its annual review and planning meeting.
4. Cindy Shubin motioned to amend Article 5 Section 2 by removing "second Tuesday of each month" to state the Commission will hold monthly public meetings with the exception of July when no meeting will be scheduled and during the July planning session someone will be designated as the MD open meeting acts designee for the upcoming fiscal year. After discussion, the topic was tabled until the March meeting along with discussion to move the date to vote on by-laws. It was stated to add that to be discussed at the annual planning session.
5. Maura Page announced that Kaitlin Moore is resigning as of February as Vice President. Maura Page will email her resignation letter and we will discuss at the March meeting. Maura will appoint someone at the March meeting to fill Kaitlin's place as Vice President.

IV. Commissioner and Guest Announcements - none

V. Adjournment of Public Meeting motioned at 8:44 pm by Maura Page seconded by Cindy Shubin. Next Meeting will be March 14, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. at Winchester Hall

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**PRESIDING OFFICER'S WRITTEN STATEMENT FOR CLOSING A MEETING ("CLOSING STATEMENT")
UNDER THE OPEN MEETINGS ACT (General Provisions Article § 3-305)**

This form has two sides. Complete items 1 – 4 before closing the meeting.

1. Recorded vote to close the meeting: Date: _____ Time: ____; Location: _____;
Motion to close meeting made by: _____ Seconded by _____;
Members in favor: _____; Opposed: _____;
Abstaining: _____; Absent: _____.

**2. Statutory authority to close session (check all provisions that apply).
This meeting will be closed under General Provisions Art. § 3-305(b) only:**

(1)___ “To discuss the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation, or performance evaluation of appointees, employees, or officials over whom this public body has jurisdiction; any other personnel matter that affects one or more specific individuals”; **(2)**___ “To protect the privacy or reputation of individuals concerning a matter not related to public business”; **(3)**___ “To consider the acquisition of real property for a public purpose and matters directly related thereto”; **(4)**___ “To consider a matter that concerns the proposal for a business or industrial organization to locate, expand, or remain in the State”; **(5)**___ “To consider the investment of public funds”; **(6)**___ “To consider the marketing of public securities”; **(7)**___ “To consult with counsel to obtain legal advice”; **(8)**___ “To consult with staff, consultants, or other individuals about pending or potential litigation”; **(9)**___ “To conduct collective bargaining negotiations or consider matters that relate to the negotiations”; **(10)**___ “To discuss public security, if the public body determines that public discussion would constitute a risk to the public or to public security, including: (i) the deployment of fire and police services and staff; and (ii) the development and implementation of emergency plans”; **(11)**___ “To prepare, administer, or grade a scholastic, licensing, or qualifying examination”; **(12)**___ “To conduct or discuss an investigative proceeding on actual or possible criminal conduct”; **(13)**___ “To comply with a specific constitutional, statutory, or judicially imposed requirement that prevents public disclosures about a particular proceeding or matter”; **(14)**___ “Before a contract is awarded or bids are opened, to discuss a matter directly related to a negotiating strategy or the contents of a bid or proposal, if public discussion or disclosure would adversely impact the ability of the public body to participate in the competitive bidding or proposal process.” **(15)**___ “To discuss cybersecurity, if the public body determines that public discussion would constitute a risk to: (i) security assessments or deployments relating to information resources technology; (ii) network security information . . . or (iii) deployments or implementation of security personnel, critical infrastructure, or security devices.”

Continued →

3. For each provision checked above, disclosure of the topic to be discussed and the public body's reason for discussing that topic in closed session.

Citation (insert # from above)	Topic	Reason for closed-session discussion of topic
§3-305(b) ()		
§3-305(b) ()		
§3-305(b) ()		
§3-305(b) ()		
§3-305(b) ()		

4. This statement is made by _____, Presiding Officer.

WORKSHEET FOR OPTIONAL USE IN CLOSED SESSION: INFORMATION FOR SUMMARY TO BE DISCLOSED IN THE MINUTES OF THE NEXT OPEN MEETING. (See also template for summary.)

➤ For a meeting closed under the statutory authority cited above:

Time of closed session: _____

Place: _____

Purpose(s): _____

Members who voted to meet in closed session: _____

Persons attending closed session: _____

Authority under § 3-305 for the closed session: _____

Topics actually discussed: _____

Actions taken: _____

Each recorded vote: _____

➤ For a meeting recessed to perform an administrative function (§ 3-104): Time: _____

Place: _____

Persons present: _____

Subjects discussed: _____