

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 Tuesday, March 14, 2023 7:00pm

Meeting Minutes

COMMISSIONERS

Maura M. Page
President

Melissa Atherholt
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 7:03 p.m., a quorum was present.

Commissioners Present: Maura Page, Melissa Atherholt, Cindy Shubin, Kate O'Leary, Marguerite Vacca-Kaye, Edwina Benites-LM, Lakshmi Darbha, Valerie Dougherty, Shauna Mulcahy

Commissioners Absent: Lois Jarmin

Guests: Allison Rizzo, Jean Beck, Rosario Campos (future commissioner) and County Council member Rene Knapp

Approval of the Minutes: Cindy motioned to approve the minutes, Kate seconded, Commission approved the February Minutes with one abstention by Shauna, who was not in attendance at the February meeting.

Committee Reports

A. Executive Committee

1. President Maura Page announced that she has asked Melissa Atherholt to step in for the remainder of this fiscal year as Vice President of the Commission, and Melissa has accepted.
2. Treasurer's Report – None per Kate

B. Outreach – Chair, Lakshmi

1. Update – focus has been on RAW, to be discussed later in the agenda.
2. Upcoming - they are planning to have invited speakers suggested by members.

C. Voter Outreach and Education – Chair, Kate

1. Update – meeting was deferred last month due to RAW preparations.

D. Raving About Women Annual Awards – Chair, Shauna

1. March 2023 Event Debrief: Sold 119 tickets, which Shauna indicated was the highest amount sold since she has been involved for several years. Eddie suggested we consider how we will use any net proceeds from RAW since the funds must be used by the end of the fiscal year, and Shauna indicated that the net proceeds will likely not exceed \$200 after expenses. Use of net RAW proceeds if any to be discussed further at next month's meeting after members have an opportunity to consider.

Our Mission: To create a stronger community by addressing challenges and fostering unlimited opportunities for all women.

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2. Considerations for 2024 event: Eddie recommended that awardees provide speeches in advance so we can pre-write our press releases and be better prepared to post after the event on social media. Kate suggested a panel for each awardee in the slide presentation. Melissa suggested we bring back the photos honoring Frederick County women in office that we did in March of 2020 the last time we held the event in person.

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E. Recruitment – Chair, Melissa

1. Update – waiting for County Council approval for the two commissioners previously recommended by the Commission. Eddie followed up with Joyce, and the appointments should be on the County Council’s 4/4 or 4/18 agenda.

F. SheLEADS – Chair, Maura

1. April 23rd Leadership Workshop from 2-4pm at Hood College – the workshop will be a Time Management and Leadership Skills workshop, and the plan is to have about 10 students from Frederick County high schools and about that many Hood College students as well. The event will be a two part workshop with a speaker as well as a panel of Hood College students. Maura has made the flyer for posting on our Facebook page and distribution to high schools.
2. Their next meeting is 3/26, and they plan to do a 3rd podcast, which has been their SheLEADS project for this fiscal year.

G. Legislative Committee – Chair, Eddie

FCCFW sent two letters in late February to the Frederick County Council. One letter asked County Council to support the amendment for Senior Citizens Local Supplement to Homeowners Property Tax Credit because this legislation will provide needed relief to senior women. The second letter asked County Council to continue to accept recorded public comments and to seek additional technological advancements that bring women to the table.

Eddie recommended that we sync our efforts with the Diversity Equity and Inclusion Commission, and she will continue to reach out to Michael Hughes about how we can work together, including on legislative efforts.

Cindy explained that the three bills FCCFW is supporting through MLAW are continuing to make their way through both chambers of the Maryland legislature: HB 0808 / SB 0859 Reproductive Health Protection Act
HB 0705 / SB 0798 Declaration of Rights - Right to Reproductive Freedom
HB 4 / SB 0129 – Criminal Law – Sexual Crimes – Repeal of Spousal Defense

On a Federal level, there is a court case in Texas where federal Judge Matthew Kacsmaryk will issue a ruling regarding Mifepristone. Cindy noted that his decision could have catastrophic implications for abortion access by women

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across the country if he bans Mifepristone nationwide, even including states like Maryland where abortion rights are protected.

Commission Business - Old Business

Review of changes to By-Laws: Article V Membership, Meetings, Quorum, Attendance – Sections 1, Section 2 and Section 5 – see the attached written recommended changes on the last page, which changes are highlighted in yellow. Recommended changes in the attached to be voted on at the April 2023 meeting.

Commission Business - New Business

1. None this time.

Commissioner and Guest Announcements

1. Allison Rizzo spoke about Just Serve, a tool that's available in the community to help recruit volunteers to community service, and they have a partnership now with United Way. The tool is available to download to your phone. She will come back at a later meeting to speak about the tool in more detail.

2. Jean Beck is the head of the women's organization for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. She and the women's organization work to develop women to support them in their various roles.

3. Lakshmi talked about the nonprofit organization Aavanee, which provides workforce training for women in IT administration, HR and cyber security. Every two months, they have a new course. They also help women secure internship experience. The majority of women they assist are moms who left the workforce and are getting back to work. Another issue they've identified is that many of these women are going through domestic violence issues at home.

4. Maura announce she will be attending the The Maryland Commission for Women Reception with The Governor of Maryland and First Lady Moore to Honor Maryland's Women's Hall of Fame 2023 Inductees and the 2023 Recipients of the Maryland Young Women Leaders Award, Thursday, March 16 at Government House Annapolis, Maryland

Next Public Meeting will be April 24, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. (via Webex)

ADJOURNMENT Maura moved to adjourn and Marguerite seconded. Meeting was adjourned by Maura at 7:59pm without objection.

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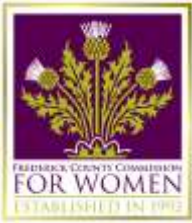
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Proposed By-Law changes:

Article V. Membership, Meetings, Quorum, Attendance

Section 1. Membership Meetings. All Commission meetings shall be at a Frederick County location **or virtually**, be open to the public and be accessible to the handicapped. Minutes shall be recorded for all Membership meetings.

Section 2. Regular Membership Meetings. **The Commission will hold monthly public meetings with the exception of July when no meeting will be scheduled.** A calendar of meeting dates shall be part of the public record, and shall be publicized. Special meetings may be called as needed by a majority of the Members in office or the Executive committee with three (3) business days notice by phone or email.

Section 5. Annual Review & Planning Meeting. Within the first three (3) months of each fiscal year (July, August, September) the Membership shall meet to evaluate the activities of the Commission, reevaluate the long-range plan **and in following the requirement that “Each public entity subject to the Open Meetings Act must designate at least one employee, officer, or member to receive training on the requirements of the Act” a commissioner shall be designated during this planning meeting.**

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