

**City of Fairfax
Commission for Women
October 15, 2019**

Present: Pat Addison, Stacey Hardy-Chandler, Lara Nayar, Teresa Presson, Lisa Whetzel, Staff Lesley Abashian

Absent: Huilan Larson, Anita Selwyn, Roxann Rowley, Beth Young, Brenda Kuhlman

I. **Welcome:** Lesley announced that Anita Selwyn submitted her resignation. The Commission vacancy has been added to the City of Fairfax website.

II. **Approval of Minutes:** Meeting minutes from September 17, 2019 were approved with minor edits.

III. **Status of Women's Suffrage Celebration 2020:** Susan Gray, acting Director of the Historical Resources, wasn't able to attend tonight's meeting. We decided to follow Historical Resources' lead and promote partnership with their events. She will try to attend November meeting.

Lara reached out to Fairfax High School Librarians who were very supportive of creating a suffrage display. She will enlist her Girl Scout troop to help out. Lesley received an invitation for CFW to partner with an upcoming event. *"Better Said Than Done"* is a women's storytelling group who will perform at the Auld Shabean restaurant in March 2020. The Fairfax City's Parks and Rec Department are collaborating with this event. The Commission has some questions before accepting to partner/promote. Lesley will contact the organizer and report back to CFW.

IV. **Debrief about Fall Festival CFW booth:** CFW members said it was a great time and the booth was well visited.

- Sharing the booth area with human services worked out well.
- Having 3 CFW members at a time was fine.
- Candy, stickers, and the picture frame where people could take a picture and post on social media were all very well received. Additionally, people liked the card of "10 things you can do to get involved"

Standing in front of the table was effective to engage passersby.

Next year:

- Bring paper weights (pretty rocks) to hold down flyers.
- Designate someone to help with set up and clean up.
- Add dog treats

V. Debrief with Dr. Angela Hattery, GMU Director Women and Gender Studies:

Pat and Lesley met with Angela Hattery to discuss ways CFW and GMU can partner to partner. Angela was very receptive and time was spent brainstorming ideas. Dr. Hattery shared that Marylyn Mobley will speak at the upcoming Sojourner Truth lecture. CFW could possibly promote and attend.

GMU found a set of buried child slaves on campus and is creating an outdoor exhibit to honor their stories. Lesley and Angela will keep in touch as opportunities to collaborate arise.

VI. Feminine Hygiene products: CFW is coordinating with BRAWS to conduct a drive for feminine hygiene products at Fairfax City's craft show November 16 and 17. Lesley has received approval from the Parks and Rec Department. A flyer will be distributed via social media and on the CFW has some questions before distributing the flyer. BRAWS is seeking specific items (Always 1 & 2, new bras/panties) which leaves the question about what to do with items BRAWS doesn't want. We decided that we will accept everything and distribute the leftover items to other nonprofit locations.

Lesley, Lisa and Lara will help set up the boxes and transport the items after the event.

VII. Women Owned Business Luncheon: Teresa will attend the planning meeting in October and report back.

VIII. CFW Areas of Focus: Pat suggested that we focus tonight's discussion on the bolded statements and leave the 'examples' under each statement for another night. Everyone approved keeping 1-9. Number 8 we want to tweak to suggest that CFW provide opportunities vs. providing literal training services. We decided to add a 10th item. Lisa, Stacey and Lara will come up with a suggested statement. But something to the effect of "Our activities will promote an inclusive community accounting for the needs of women and girls of all backgrounds."

IX. Upcoming Dates of Note

October is Domestic Violence awareness month and Breast Cancer awareness. Lesley forwarded each CFW member information about how to ensure a proper bra fitting. Stacey shared that her AKA sorority has a traveling mammogram RV and 27 cases of breast cancer were diagnosed at this traveling clinic. No dates of note in November.

X. Human Services updates

Lesley shared that she is working with Fairfax County to get data pertinent to Fairfax City residents. We should all be thinking about data we'd like to learn about to detect trends.

Lesley offered to ask the City for voter registration turnout numbers to compare 2019 turnout to 2020. Hoping to determine if our campaign improved voter turnout for women.

Lesley will send a letter to Fairfax City Council stating that CFW supports the ERA in Virginia and the council should take note in their legislative agenda.