

City of Fairfax

Commission for Women

Meeting Minutes for Wednesday, April 22, 2020

This meeting was conducted via Zoom on-line during the COVID-19 virus pandemic.

Present via Zoom: *Pat Addison, Stacey Hardy-Chandler, Brenda Kuhlman, Lara Nayar, Teresa Presson, Roxann Rowley, Lisa Whetzel and staff Lesley Abashian. Not able to get through: Huilan Larson, Mary Baker.*

I. **Welcome:** Pat and Lesley welcomed members, acknowledging the change to a virtual meeting format due to COVID restrictions.

II. **Around Table Sharing:** Members spoke of individual challenges in the current pandemic and changes in work, school, family lifestyle, income, college kids home, extracurricular activities and much more. Our local nonprofit groups have lost opportunities to do fundraising due to social distancing. For our group, of course, the impact of the pandemic was on our many exciting planned activities the Commission had planned for the month of March.

III. **Approval of the 2/18/2020 Minutes:** The minutes were approved as written.

VI. **Women's Luncheon Update:** Beth and Teresa reported that the Women's luncheon would not be rescheduled in 2020. Instead a fall event will be scheduled, possibly a reception with a speaker. A suggested topic is how small businesses can deal with the effects of COVID was suggested.

VII. **Women of Influence Award.** Pat announced that Susan Barborek and Janet Jawaorski are the chosen awardees for the Women of Influence Award. Both women are active community volunteers, serving in a variety of roles. Five candidates were nominated for the award. We will postpone the award ceremony to the fall.

VI. **Women's Suffrage Celebration 2020:** Although the Women's History Month events were cancelled, the Commission will continue to recognize Suffrage's 100 anniversary throughout 2020. The Commission will explore the possibility of

inviting Kate Campbell Stevenson to provide her suffrage presentation in August. It appears that the City's July 4 parade will be cancelled thus cancelling the Commission's plans to celebrate suffrage in the parade.

VII. Alternative ways to celebrate: Members began to brainstorm ways to celebrate suffrage. Possibilities included a speaker event in August; an article in the *CityScene*; a banner over Main Street; a viewing party for streaming the movie "*On the Basis of Sex*" about Ruth B. Ginsberg; and the idea to put a banner on the Starship robots, which has been delivering food to homes from City restaurants. Lesley will contact Chris Cohen to do a feature story in the *CityScene* about two women who have Girl Scout leaders in the City for fifty years.

VIII. Student Representative for School Year 2020-21. Members congratulated Lara for her acceptance into William & Mary College for Economics and Data Science. We have enjoyed having her input as first student rep! She will be a hard act to follow, but she gave ideas for recruiting a new student representative.

The application will be on-line this year. Lesley will send the information to Mrs. Kim at Fairfax High School. Commission Members stated that the in-person interview component was key to the decision-making process but acknowledged that this year, the interviews would be virtual.

IX. Update of National Commission for Women Conference. The NACW has cancelled its national conference planned for July 2020. The NACW plans is to reschedule the conference for summer 2021, still utilizing Loudoun County (VA) as the conference location.

X. Human Services Director Update:

City Budget: the COVID pandemic is impacting local government budgets and the City is no exception. Currently the City is reworking its 2021 budget to address the anticipated shortfalls related to COVID's impact on the economy. This year, resident input into the City budget deliberations will occur virtually. City Council meetings have moved to a virtual format for the immediate future.

Annual Report: Members agreed to share the 2019 CFW Annual Report with the Mayor and City Council electronically. The Commission originally planned to present the 2019 report at a March Council meeting before the State's emergency declaration impacted City operations.

Celebration of Family Day Homes: Members support sending thank-you notes to City-based home childcare providers during May. As CFW Chair, Pat will sign the thank you notes as representative for the Commission.

Resilience Week: Virginia has named May 3 to 9 as Resilience Week. Stacey discussed how the topic of resilience should be a part of the discussion around how individuals cope with impacts of the COVID-19 crisis. Everyone has experienced some level of life disruption from COVID. It is especially a concerning time for the most vulnerable populations in our community. It was noted that there are a number of online resources available to the community. The plan is to share information about Resilience Week on the CFW Facebook Page.

Other dates of note: National Child Abuse Month, Sexual Assault Awareness Month, National Infertility Awareness Month.

Our next meeting will be May 19, 2020. Bring Purell.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Kuhlman

STAY SAFE!