

City of Fairfax

Commission for Women

Meeting Minutes for June 16, 2020 (*Virtual Meeting*)

Present: Pat Addison, Mary Baker, Stacey Hardy-Chandler, Brenda Kuhlman, Lara Nayer, Teresa Presson, Lisa Whetzel, Beth Young, Hulian Larson and staff support Lesley Abashian.

Not Present: Roxann Rowley

I. **Welcome:** Pat and Lesley welcomed all members.

II. ***Celebrating Lara!*** The meeting began with a thank you and well wishes for Lara, who is heading to William & Mary College in August. Commission members shared a variety of wise quotes with Lara to support her with her upcoming transition to college. Lisa created a colorful poster with the quotes that Lara can take with her to college. Regardless, all present agreed that Lara's time on the board has been enriching for all of us, and she will be missed.

III. **Approval of the Minutes** of May 19: Minutes approved as written with minor corrections.

IV. **Update - Student Representative:** Pat announced that our new student representative Laila Acquavella, a rising junior at Fairfax High School, was chosen as the new student representative starting in August 2020. We look forward to meeting her! Members expressed appreciation for the Selection Committee Members (Teresa, Lara, Mary) efforts.

V. **Update - NACW Conference:** Pat reported that the NACW has officially cancelled the July 2020 NACW Conference. NACW leadership

is discussing the possibility of a virtual conference in 2020 but no firm decisions have

been made. The plan is for the NACW to host the 2021 conference in Loudoun County.

Planning - *Celebrating Suffrage*: We have been impacted by a pandemic, but there's no keeping women down! Lesley encouraged us to share ideas for celebrating Suffrage, preferably in the August – September time frame. Lara offered a list of movie options promoting equality and Teresa discussed “Girl Power” rocks to paint and place throughout the City possibly featuring hashtags linked to the Suffrage Centennial. Members agreed that Facebook and other social media platforms should be linked to August celebration activities.

Movie night: Venues were discussed, including a targeted audience and objectives. Details would include permission to use Van Dyke Park, sending Lara's list to Parks & Rec, and deciding on a film. The outdoor setting would be more likely due to the COVID-19 limitations, but it will attract more families. Movie choices will reflect positive female messages. Possible movies included Mulan, Hidden Figures, A League of Their Own and Her Name is Malala.

Lesley made contact with Starship, the company who oversees the robots that deliver food in the City and they are open to allowing the Commission to place suffrage messages on their robots in connection with August Centennial celebrations. Static stickers will be used on the robots and would be created by the Public Works Department. The stickers would reflect messages about the 19th Amendment. Other activities discussed included Suffrage Banner in Old Town Square, looking for other photo opportunities reflecting resident thoughts about suffrage, etc. Brenda suggested that the “Your Vote Matters”

pictures taken at the City's Fall Festival should be utilized on social media.

VII. Human Services Update: Lesley reported that City Hall is now open by appointment only. She and Lisa discussed the Cares Act and the impact of funds to area businesses as well as helping residents with basic needs. Nonprofits are seeing significant increases in resident needs. The eviction moratorium will expire in late June but the hope is the Virginia Courts will extend the moratorium. Lesley suggested that members should check the Volunteer Fairfax website for a comprehensive list of how individuals can assist local nonprofits with COVID efforts.

Lesley reported no Dates of Note for June and July. She suggested that members review the current list and offer suggestions of any Dates of Note that should be included on the current list.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Kuhlman

STAY SAFE!!!