

**CITY OF FAIRFAX  
COMMISSION FOR WOMEN  
MEETING MINUTES  
NOVEMBER 17, 2020 (Virtual)**

**Present:** Pat Addison, Mary Baker, Stacey Hardy-Chandler, Brenda Kuhlman, Teresa Presson, Roxann Rowley, Lisa Whetzel, and staff support Lesley Abashian.

**Not Present:** Huilan Larson, Beth Young, Laila Acquavella

- I. **Welcome:** Pat welcomed members to our virtual meeting.
- II. **Minutes:** The minutes were approved with one change- Lisa Whetzel was present for the October meeting.
- III. **Update: EDA/CFW Event:** Beth reported that, in conjunction with the EDFA, it was decided to postpone the fall networking event until March 2021. There is hope by March, the annual Women-Owned Business luncheon can occur, either as a virtual or in-person event.
- IV. **Update: Village Model Next Steps.** Lesley provided an update on the City's discussion about implementing a "village model" to support older adults age-in-place have access to necessary supports. Pat, Teresa, Roxann, Lisa and Lesley participated in a meeting about this topic with Janice, Miller, City Council, Carolyn Sutterfield, Commission on Aging Chair and Cathy Salgado, City of Fairfax Parks Department. Next step is to schedule a presentation by Fairfax County Health Department's Village Coordinator. Pat noted opportunities for CFW members to volunteer once the Village is established.
- V. **Update: City Scene Articles for November and December.**
  - 1) The November issue highlighted the Commission's two 2020 Women of Influence Award recipients. The article included information about the award ceremony that occurred in September as a brief, outdoors, masked-wearing, socially distance ceremony that recognized Susan Barborek and Janet Jaworski. The article added that the Commission will be seeking nominees for the 2021 award in the next couple of months.
  - 2) The December issue will feature Pat in a Helping Hands article. The focus of the article is to provide information about the Commission for Women, their relationship to the Mayor and City Council and their role in the City.
- VI. **Discussion: December Holiday Event.** Due to continued COVID concerns, the members will have a virtual holiday celebration on December 15. Members will participate in a Secret Santa gift exchange event which will require members to deliver Secret Santa events prior to the December meeting. Members agreed to each donate \$10 to the City

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Police's Hypothermia Backpack Project, \$100 total. Acknowledging the pandemic's impact on the homeless population, the funds will be utilized to purchase supplies for the backpacks which will be available to officers as needed to assist a resident.

- VII. **Discussion: Voice of Women Survey.** Based on survey results presented at the October meeting, members discussed how best to utilize this information to influence legislative and local budgetary decisions. Members agreed to continue to discuss the survey findings and utilize them in future areas of focus discussions.
- VIII. **Discussion: Slate of Officers 2021-2023.** Lesley announced it's time to elect the Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary. These positions serve for 2 years. Lesley asked members to notify her by Friday November 20<sup>th</sup> if interested in serving. Members will be asked to vote for the leadership slate by the December meeting. The new officers will assume their roles at the January 2021. Meeting.
- IX. **Discussion: Legislative Agenda for CFW.** Members discussed how to advocate for issues important to women and girls. A group advocacy letter will be considered. Topics include mental health parity, women's health and children's health.
- X. **Human Services Director's Report:**
- 1) Provided update on City's Social Equity and Inclusion Project being initiated through collaboration with George Mason's Carter School.
  - 2) CARES Act Funding update about difficult ways this funding is being used to assist residents.
  - 3) Upcoming Dates of Note:
    - December: World AIDS Day (12/1/2020)
    - January: Martin Luther King Jr. Day (1/18/2021)
- XI. **Agenda Building for January:** Legislative agenda, Women of Influence
- XII. **Around the Table Sharing:** Members shared with one another.

Next Virtual meeting: Tuesday January 19 at 7pm

Respectfully Submitted, Brenda Kuhlman