

February 15, 2022 (Virtual)

Name	Present
Patricia Addison	X
Teresa Presson	X
Stacey D. Hardy-Chandler	X
Laila Acquavella	X
Mary Baker-Mezlo	X
Brenda Kuhlman	X
Huilan Larson	X
Roxann Rowley	-
Lisa Whetzel	X
Simmy King	X
Lesley Abashian	X

Meeting Facilitator: Pat Addison, Chair

The meeting was called to order at 7:05pm.

- I. Roll call
- II. Approval of January Meeting Minutes - approved as submitted.
- III. Inspirational Quote (presented later in the meeting)

Laila shared a quote from “Still I Rise” by Maya Angelou. The quote was submitted by Simmy in honor of the challenges faced by healthcare professionals.

“You may shoot me with your words,
You may cut me with your eyes,
You may kill me with your hatefulness,
But still, like air, I’ll rise.”

IV. Open Topics

a) CEDAW Update

Simmy and Teresa provided an overview of the meeting with Mayor Meyer that was also attended by Pat and Lesley. He was receptive to the resolution and made a point to say

how important it was to have such important documents be action-oriented. He also emphasized the role of data in decision-making as emphasized in the resolution.

Next steps: On March 8, 2022, the resolution will be on the City Council agenda. Teresa and Simmy will provide some context for the resolution and its connection to the charge of the Commission for Women. They will cover alignment with the Commission's legislative priorities, the history of the CEDAW and implications for the Commissions future aims.

Commissioners are encouraged to attend the presentation of the resolution. The City Council meeting is scheduled to start at 7:30 and it is expected that this item will be toward the beginning of the session. Lesley will send a calendar invite and location instructions.

b) Village Steering Committee- update

Lesley shared that the steering committee is on track for becoming a formal advisory committee. When it does, she plans to have a cadre of volunteers lined up and is in the process of doing community outreach. She has had a meeting with fire department for volunteers to engage in activities such as checking on senior's smoke detectors. She also has planned meetings with senior centers as part of her ongoing communications with the community about the village.

c) NACW Update – N/A

d) Women of Influence Planning Committee- Update

Six applications have been submitted.

1. WOI Selection Committee

Brenda, Pat, Lesley and Lisa will be meeting to discuss candidates and make awardee recommendations to the Commission.

2. WOI Award Ceremony

The location selected in a previous meeting is City Hall. Commissioners are still in support of having the event outside (City Hall steps) in March. Lesley will check Mayor and City Council member availability for the best dates.

A former awardee, Janet Jokowski asked to attend the event. Commissioners were unanimously in support of this as well as inviting all previous awardees to the ceremony.

V. New business

a) Women's History Month 2022 Planning

*****"Promoting Healing, Promoting Hope" (theme)**

Pat expressed how impressed she was with the communication from the Women in Business group (see below, EDA/CFW Videos)

1. Community Service Project

Lesley's follow up from the last meeting about an Afghan resettlement focused project revealed the following:

- A "Stuff the Bus" event is planned for March 19th at Van Dyke park. It will likely take place from 10:00am to 3:00pm. We could coordinate our service project for the same time and location.
- Lutheran Social Services reported a surge in support and interest at the beginning of the resettlement process that has since waned. They still have identified ongoing needs for things like: bed sheets, diapers, baby bathing supplies and blankets.
- The Western Christian Ministry is also conducting ongoing diaper drives

Of these efforts, the Commission voted to host and activity in conjunction with the "Stuff the Bus" event on the 19th. Lisa advised being very specific in our messaging about what people should bring to encourage the community to bring things that would really be usable. CFW voted to focus on collecting new blankets.

Action steps: Lesley will write up a summary of the logistics and send out to Commissioners. Although Lisa cannot attend the event, she will help with pre-event planning or any coordination needed after the event. She suggested having commissioners sign up for specific time slots/shifts. Mary will support Lesley in coordinating logistics. Laila will assist with flyer design with Mary crafting the copy.

2. EDA/CFW Videos

Lisa reported that the Women in Business in-person event has been pushed to fall. For March though, the group will feature four women-owned businesses using video and social media. There are no action steps for the CFW except to share information among their social/professional networks as these become available.

3. Other ideas – none discussed.

b) Recruitment of Student Representative for 2022-2023

Lesley noted that this is about the time of year we begin to plan for selecting a new student representative as Laila will be graduating. Teresa indicated that she would be available to work on this beginning in April. Laila will assist in the process of “passing the baton” to the next student rep.

VI. Human Services Director’s Report

1. City FY 23 Budget- Update

The City Manager will present the FY 23 budget to the Mayor and City Council at the City Council meeting on February 22. The proposed budget will be posted on the City’s website after the presentation. Residents will have an opportunity to comment on the proposed budget at upcoming City Council meetings.

2. Legislative Update

Lesley provided a legislative update.

3. Dates of Note:

February:

- ✓ American Heart Month – “wear red for Women’s heart health”

Gratitude to Brenda for authoring an article about this vital topic.

- ✓ Eating Disorders Awareness and Screening Week- **February 21-27**

March:

- ✓ Women’s History Month

- ✓ International Women’s Day (March 8)

- ✓ **SPECIAL NOTE:** The Commission has elected to hold its March monthly meeting in-person on March 8th in conjunction with the CEDAW resolution presentation to City Council. It is typically on the 3rd Tuesday of the month.

4. Agenda Items for March – Women’s History Month activities. Meeting will be abbreviated.

VII. Around the Table Sharing – Commissioners shared personal and professional accomplishments and challenges.

The meeting was adjourned 8:44pm