

May 17, 2022 (in person)

Name	Present
Patricia Addison	X
Teresa Presson	X
Stacey D. Hardy-Chandler	X
Laila Acquavella	Call in
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

### **I. Roll call**

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 followed by celebrating Laila's graduation from High School. In honor of her graduation, all Commissioners provided an inspirational quote which was made into a collage. Lisa framed the collage and each read their respective quote aloud offering their well-wishes for Laila's future and appreciation for her service to the Commission.

Congratulations Laila!

### **II. Inspirational Quote**

Laila shared Lisa's quote of the meeting.

"There is always light if we're brave enough to see it. If we're only brave enough to be it."

-Amanda Gorman

### **III. Approval of April Meeting Minutes**

April minutes were approved with one minor edit.

#### IV. Open Topics

##### e) CEDAW Next Steps

Lesley shared some of the City's workforce statistics, valid as of 2/2022. This was previously requested by CEDAW representative, Teresa and Simmy. [Attachment](#)

Additional Fairfax City workforce data was reported orally, by race. Full-time employees include:

- 20 AAPI
- 73 Black
- 269 White
- 31 Hispanic

Requests were made to provide further workforce data as compared to the general city population. There were no other CEDAW updates.

##### f) Fairfax Village in the City- update

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The Fairfax Village Model website is up and running. Lesley shared that people can access information now and are encouraged to do so. The program is moving steadily forward as led by the coordinator who works 30 hours/week. Kudos to all who have contributed to the Village's progress to-date.

##### g) NACW Update

None available at this time.

#### V. New business

##### a) Recruitment of Student Representative for 2022-2023

Teresa reported that Lesley identified a strong prospective candidate. The youth expressed experiences and interests align with the Commissions service activities. Teresa also noted how well rounded the young person is including musical talents and service projects. An interview is planned for May 23<sup>rd</sup>. If possible, Laila as our current student representative, will participate in the selection process.

##### b) Areas of Focus-Update for CY 2022-2024

Pat proposed that that the Commission review the 10 focus areas that have guided our work over the past two years (expired, 1/22/2022). Huilan discussed how the new calendar

year 2022-2024 plan should continue to serve the purpose of guiding the Commission's activities, projects and decisions. Lesley advised making sure the areas of focus align with topics the Commission aims to be accountable for to the City Council.

Decision: The Commission decided that the Focus areas as written remain timely and topical, and agreed to continue them through 2024.

**Ancillary Discussion:** Lesley noted that it may be prudent for the Commission to consider the current Supreme Court docket topics such as reproductive health. Simmy echoed this notion and shared about a number of family and systemic impacts that ripple from the issues emanating from Supreme Court's decisions. She noted the vast complexity of these issues including an array of unintended health, educational and social service consequences. As with the Commission's pro-active support of the ERA, Pat inquired whether the Commission should wait for a Supreme Court decision or whether it should be proactive in its advocacy and messaging. Lesley suggested looking at data-informed articles for the Commission to discuss. Notably, Laila recently authored a piece for school entitled, "What you can do to fight for abortion rights" which the Commission agreed could be noteworthy discussion starting point.

At a future meeting, Lesley will share women's related topics addressed at Congressman Gerry Connelly's (D-VA) panel for Women's History Month. Mary also shared efforts her company is exploring on the implications of overturning Roe vs. Wade and how it will impact the workforce and talent retention. Laila commented on an expanded focus on sexual health education as a valuable direction to explore. The Commission will continue to consider these critical and timely issues.

### **c) CFW Shirts- Discussion**

Lesley requested parameters from the Commission regarding t-shirt design and purchasing preferences. She reported that for one vendor she's researched, for an image on one side and a single color, the price is \$350 for 20 shirts. Prices increase with additional colors and images, but there can be some cost savings depending on the volume ordered. She will check with other vendors.

Some possible CFW branding/marketing options suggested include selling them, giving them to Women of Influence Award recipients, giving them to City Council members or other promotional activities in addition to Commissioners wearing them to events. Huilan suggested purchasing shirts from a Fairfax City vendor if possible. The Women of Influence logo was suggested for the shirt design.

Lesley will bring some mock-ups to the next meeting for member consideration.

**d) 2021 Year in Review**

Pat shared the draft of the 2021 Year in Review document outlining the array of activities the Commission accomplished during the calendar year. Commissioners discussed activities and projects accomplished to flesh out the draft even further.

Teresa suggested starting the 2022 Year in Review document in real time so that details can be captured on an on-going basis rather than retroactively.

**VI. Human Services Director's Report**

**1. Connecting Fairfax Council Actions**

June 14<sup>th</sup> is the public hearing for the street names and City seal. From there, the City Council will make decisions based on the recommendations. Lesley encouraged Commissioner and community input. Lisa suggested, and Simmy agreed, that the Commission should offer a formal statement to be offered at the June 14<sup>th</sup> public hearing or to City Council by that date. In addition, people can offer opinions by emailing council members, the Engage Fairfax website and other input avenues.

Lesley shared that Melanie Crowder is compiling a list of methods to ease any transitions associated with name changes for (e.g., for individuals, city costs, etc.). The guidance from the stakeholder group was for the City to thoughtfully address the burdens of transitions.

Lisa made a motion, and Stacey seconded for the Commission to offer a statement on current efforts to rename the confederate-influenced streets and to redesign the seal. The vote was subsequently deferred due to questions about the CFW's voting procedures. Lisa agreed to draft a position statement for commission members to consider.

**2. Upcoming Housing Study (Comp Plan Action)**

Lesley reported on affordable housing as a priority area for the city with more information to come.

**3. Dates of Note:**

**May:**

✓ **Celebrate Family Home Child Care Providers**

✓ **National Mental Health Awareness Month**

**June:**

✓ **PRIDE Month**

**4. Agenda Items for June meeting**

**5. Should we cancel June or July meeting?**

**VII. Around the Table Sharing**

People shared their celebrations, travels and news.

The meeting adjourned at 8:54 pm.

**Next Commission for Women Meeting is scheduled for 6/21/2022 at 7 pm**