

October 18, 2022

| Name | Present |
|---------------------------|---------|
| Teresa Presson (Chair) | X |
| Gabby Ravenera | X |
| Simmy King | X |
| Mary Baker-Mezlo | X |
| Brenda Kuhlman | X |
| Roxann Rowley | A |
| Lisa Whetzel (Vice Chair) | X |
| | |
| Lesley Abashian | X |

Meeting Facilitator: Teresa Presson, Chair

Meeting was called to order at 7:08pm by Teresa.

Approval of September Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Lisa to approve the September 2022 meetings; seconded by Brenda. Minutes were approved with recommended corrections

Open Topics

1. CEDAW Next Steps

Teresa reported that she, Simmy, and Lesley met on Friday, Oct 14 to discuss next steps. Simmy pointed out the importance of alignment between CEDAW areas of focus and CFW's existing legislative priorities and identified focus areas. As CFW moves forward, CEDAW strategies should be woven into CFW's strategic plan, goals and related activities. Plan is for Simmy, Lesley, and Teresa to meet again before the next meeting, if possible.

2. Fairfax Village in the City- update

Roxanne represents CFW on the Village's Advisory Board. Roxann reported that currently the Village is recruiting both members and volunteers.

City Council recently approved funds to establish a city co-responder team which will include a community paramedic. Lesley reported that the community paramedic will establish relationship with community members who use 911 frequently and will help link older residents needing additional supports who reach out to 911 to the Village.

3. Legislative Agenda for FY 23

Lesley pointed out the importance of paying attention to where local candidates for office stand on issues related to women. Women focused issues include reproductive rights, access to health services, availability of childcare, domestic violence service/supports, pay equity and affordable housing.

Lesley requested members take time to consider the CFW's legislative priorities and what issue(s) they want to specific focus on in the FY 23 legislative session. Pointed out that CFW should consider if there is a specific legislative issue CFW wants to engage City Council on.

4. Vacant positions

Lesley reported that the three vacant CFW positions are awaiting the City Council's appointment process. Upcoming local elections and other City Council priorities may delay the appointment process. Members discussed the importance of sharing the "why" individuals chose to participate in CFW and how to share that with new members.

New business

1. Anti-Trafficking Event and Possible Co-Sponsor by CFW

Teresa and Simmy had a phone conversation with Kim Luckabaugh, City resident and Executive Director of Resett180 (Anti-Trafficking organization) on Oct 4th. Kim has requested the CFW co-sponsor an antitrafficking event the weekend of January 14, 2023, which is MLK Holiday weekend. The suggestion is to pair the event with the MLK Make a Difference Day.

Speakers for the event have not been identified but Kim mentioned reaching out to the First Lady of VA, Police Chief, etc. As part of co-hosting, Kim would look to CFW to assist with advertising the event via the City's social media accounts. Kim also discussed utilizing a city venue such as Old Town Hall, Sherwood Center or one of the local schools. It is estimated the setting would need to be large enough for 250 attendees. Kim also suggested that CFW could assist with providing food for the event.

The event's target audience would be any interested community member but could be targeted to parents and their teens. Members agreed that more thought needs to occur around the audience.

Next steps: Simmy will request a copy of the slide deck to better understand the focus of the event. Members discussed the importance of the event being politically and

religiously neutral for CFW to co-sponsor the event. It was noted that Reset180 is a “secular” organization and the need to better understand how (and if) religion will be a part of the event.

CFW members agree that anti-trafficking is an important topic and one that corresponds to CFW’s areas of focus. If CFW doesn’t co-sponsor this event it was noted that maybe CFW could sponsor their own event. Members agreed to take a vote about co-sponsoring the event with Reset180 in the November CFW meeting.

2. Fall Festival Debrief (Oct 8)

Teresa noted great community engagement with the CFW table at the fall festival. The frame with messages encouraging residents to vote and the Halloween tattoos were both very popular with residents who stopped by the table.

Teresa’s survey which included three women’s trivia questions and asked for feedback from residents about important events was completed by 23 individuals who utilized the Q-code at the table. It was agreed that next time, a larger Q-code will be available at the table to draw resident attention. Teresa also plans to send an email to all participants to announce the winner, along with provide information about CFW. Winner of the survey drawing won a \$10 De Clieu Coffee gift card.

Next year, members agreed to consider additional strategies to ensure residents while sharing the CFW’s areas of focus and legislative priorities.

3. December Meeting/Holiday Planning (Dec 20th)

Teresa introduced the idea of a holiday celebration in lieu of the CFW monthly meeting in December which all members agreed to. Teresa asked members to consider which local charity members want to support this year so a decision can be decided in November. In the past, each member donates \$10 to go to the chosen charity. Other decisions about the holiday celebration include restaurant or City Hall and if members want to do a white elephant or secret Santa activity.

4. Women’s History Month Planning (March)

Due to time constraints, members agreed to defer this discussion until the November meeting.

Human Services Director's Report

1. **The Stepsisters (nonprofit)**. Lesley provided information about this local charity that supports women receiving breast cancer treatment by assisting with individual needs. Members thanked Lesley for the information but don't feel they need a presentation by the group at this time.
2. **Connecting Fairfax/Street Renaming Update**

Lesley reported that the City Council will host a work session item on Oct 25th to review potential new street names for those street names City Council voted to change. New street names will reflect community input but voted on by City Council. Council members Janice Miller and Jon Staley will guide the discussion.

3. **Dates of Note:**

October:

- ✓ Domestic Violence Awareness Month
- ✓ Breast Cancer Awareness

November: none

December:

- ✓ World Aids Day (Dec 1)

Agenda Items for the November meeting

Around the Table Sharing

Members each provided individual updates. Members wished Gabby a happy birthday
Happy Birthday Gabby

Next Commission for Women Meeting is scheduled for November 15, 2022

Notes submitted by Simmy King

