

JANUARY 17, 2023

Name	Present
Teresa Presson (Chair)	X
Lisa Whetzel (Vice Chair)	X
Gabby Ravenera	X
Simmy King	X
Mary Baker-Mezlo	X
Brenda Kuhlman	X
Johnelle Baker	X
Filomena Crawford	X
Taylor Geaghan	X
Open	
Lesley Abashian	X

Meeting Facilitator: Teresa Presson, Chair

Meeting was called to order at 7:10 pm by Teresa.

Approval of November Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Brenda to approve the November 2022 meetings; seconded by Lisa. Meeting minutes approved. The holiday celebration was held instead of a meeting in December.

Open Topics

1. Introduction to the Commission for Women

Teresa welcomed the three new CFW members and provided an overview of the Commission for Women's work. She noted that the activities/projects taken on by the Commission must be in alignment with the CFW's Areas of Focus in order to maintain focus. It is also important that CFW members feel passionate about the work the commission does.

2. Fairfax Village in the City- update

Lesley provided an overview of the Fairfax Village in the City program, pointing out that its structure is based on a national model for supporting older adults and adults with disabilities successfully age-in-place within their communities. The Village relies on volunteers to support the mission. Janice Miller, long time city council member supported the Village's creation in the City.

Fairfax Village in the City's Advisory Board consists of City of Fairfax residents/stakeholders. Prior to Roxanne and Huilan resigning the CFW, they served as the CFW's representatives on the Advisory Board. Lesley asked if there is a current CFW interested in serving as an Advisory Board member and asked anyone interested to reach out to her. The Village is hosting an "Aging in Place" expo at Sherwood Center on March 29, 2023.

3. **Women's History Month Planning (March 2023)**

a) Lesley started the planning discussion for the upcoming Women's History Month activities. The Women's History Month theme is ***"Celebrating Women Who Tell Our Stories"***. This year's CFW Women's History Month event will occur on Sunday March 12 from 2-4 at City Hall. The event will focus on Title IX and its past, present, and future impacts for women. Lesley has reached out to George Mason's Athletic Department and plans to have a speaker with a panel as part of the event. Lesley will schedule a planning meeting for the event and send out a meeting invite to CFW members. Goal is to include both a college and a high school student on the panel. Lisa recommended reaching out to Ms. Melnyk, the Athletic Director at Fairfax High School.

b) **Woman Owned Business Luncheon**

Teresa provided information about the history of this luncheon, a partnership between City Economic Development and CFW to support City of Fairfax woman business owners. Haven't had the luncheon for the last couple of years due to pandemic restrictions. This year Jennifer Rose, Central Fairfax Chamber of Commerce "Women Mean Business" committee plans to host a luncheon on March 30, 2023 and has asked the CFW to collaborate. It is unclear if the Economic Development will participate this year; unfortunately, Danette who was previously a part of the luncheon planning as left her position with City Economic Development.

Taylor volunteered to be the CFW representative on the planning committee after Lesley can reach out to Jennifer and ask for clarification on what CFW's role would be in planning this event.

c) **Social Media Campaign**

Simmy suggested that the CFW have a social media celebration as part of Women's History Month. This would include celebrating the nominees for the

Women of Influence Award. Simmy, Gabby, and Taylor volunteered to assist in planning the campaign.

Woman of Influence Award 2023

CFW members agreed to hold the WOI presentation on 3/28/23 prior to the City Council Meeting. Mayor Read agreed to present the award. Nominations will be accepted until February 17, 2023. The award winners will be determined in the February CFW meeting. Lisa will chair the selection committee. Simmy, Johnelle, Mary, and Mena agreed to participate in the selection committee. Lesley will send a selection committee meeting invite out for February 20th to the volunteers.

Human Services Director's Report

1. Co-Responder Team

Lesley provided an update on the development of this new team. The city is currently recruiting a clinician for the team. The team will consist of 2 CIT-trained police officers, a community paramedic, and a community response clinician. This team will support mental health crisis calls and work with residents who are frequently call 911.

2. Legislative Agenda for FY 23

VA Governor has submitted budget, currently legislators submitting bills, some of the legislation from human services are focused on schools, funding related to behavioral health (March Alert- specialized behavioral health crisis response continuum), Mental Health Parity, childcare, and pink tax (no tax on feminine hygiene products). Lesley noted that, will 3 new council members and a new Mayor, it will be important to understand their legislative priorities along with educate them on the CFW's priorities.

3. Election

The new City council members and new mayor are requesting orientations from City boards and commissions. After discussion, it was recommended that the CFW invite them to either the April or May CFW meeting.

4. Title VI Plan

The City has hired a consultant to help develop a Title VI plan for the City of Fairfax. Title VI focuses on how local government decisions around how federal funds are utilized, prohibiting discrimination (in decision-making) based on race, color or national origin.

Currently the consultant is completing interviews with identified stakeholders and has asked to interview a CFW member. Teresa has agreed to participate in this interview process.

5. Dates of Note:

January

- ✓ Martin Luther King Jr Day- January 16

February

- ✓ American Health Month- “wear red for Women’s Health Health”
- ✓ Eating Disorder Awareness and Screening Week- February 23-March 1.

6. Agenda Items for February Meeting

- June PRIDE month planning
- Gabby- present her student project idea.
- CFW outcomes document
- WOI Award

Around the Table Sharing

Teresa facilitated the Around the Table Sharing to complete the meeting.

The next CFW member will occur on March 21, 2023.

Notes submitted by Simmy King