

February 21, 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 7:03 pm by Teresa.

Approval of November Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Taylor to approve the January 2022 meetings; seconded by Brenda. Meeting minutes approved.

Open Topics

a) Orientation for Mayor and City Council (May 16)

Based on the recent election, City Boards and Commissions have been asked to schedule an orientation for the Mayor and City Council members. Commission members agreed that the May 16 CFW meeting would be planned as the orientation in conjunction with the regularly scheduled meeting. Bill Bates, a City Council Member has verbalized his plan to attend the May meeting. Commission members discussed the need of a plan of what to share during the May orientation. There was agreement that this topic should be discussed further during the March meeting. Taylor offered to assist with creating a power point if needed.

b) Gabby's Student Project

Gabby discussed her plan to support "A Place to Stand" by hosting a donation drive for supplies for the Fairfax High School food pantry. This pantry is open to any student who needs the assistance. Specific needs include cooking oil, flour, sugar, shampoo, and feminine pads. Gabby stated she would like to host the drive in March but needs to talk to the school about when and if there is a possibly of student's who donate earning

community service credit. Teresa and Lesley agreed to support Gabby in finalizing her plan. Gabby stated her goal is to gather at least 25 of each item on the list. Also discussed the possibility of having a donation box at City Hall.

Will ask Chamber of Commerce if donations can be gathered at the upcoming Woman Owned Business luncheon. Lesley suggested to Gabby that she attend a City Council meeting and request support of the Mayor and City Council as part of public comments.

c) Women’s History Month Planning (March 2023)

1. The Title IX Presentation “How Women Compete: On and Off the Field” is scheduled for March 12, 2023, from 2 to 3:30 at City Hall. Commission members are asked to attend this Women’s History Month event. Members discussed the possibility of the event including live stream; Lesley will look into the possibly by consulting with City IT Department. The event is currently being advertised through the City’s social media accounts.
2. Simmy discussed the idea of creating a social media campaign connected to the Woman of Influence nominees. Both Mary and Simmy volunteered to develop the campaign.
3. The Woman of Influence Award Ceremony is scheduled for Tuesday March 28 at 6pm in the City Council Chambers. There will be a small reception planned for after the ceremony.
4. Lesley provided information about the upcoming Women’s Storytelling Festival scheduled for March 24-26 in the City of Fairfax. This annual event is sponsored by Better Said than Done.

d) Woman Owned Business Luncheon (March 30)

Taylor reported that the Woman Owned Business Luncheon being planned by the Chamber of Commerce is scheduled for March 30 from 11 am to 2 pm. The event will occur at the American Legion. Taylor let members know that it is still unclear if the American Legion will cater the event or an outside caterer will be utilized, noting there is an additional charge if the AL doesn’t cater. Taylor didn’t have information about the cost of tickets yet. After a discussion, the commission members voted to support but not be a co-sponsor this luncheon. The reason for this decision is that this year’s luncheon is open to all CoC members instead of just City of Fairfax based woman owned businesses.

New Business

a) Woman of Influence Award 2023- Award Recommendations

Lisa reported that there were seven nominations for this year's award. Two of the nominees had 2 nominations.

The selection committee reviewed and scored the nominations. Based on the scoring totals, the committee recommended that Janice Miller and Katy Malesky receive the 2023 award. Brenda made a motion to approve the selection committee's recommendations; Taylor seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

b) Virtual Meeting Policy

Lesley discussed the need for the CFW to have a virtual meeting policy in place, in response to the emergency order expiring and the requirement for City appointed boards and commissions to meet in person. Although there are parameters that allow for an individual member to participate remotely, there still must be an in-person quorum in attendance at a meeting.

She shared a draft policy with commission members, asking them to review so the commission could vote on the policy at the March meeting. Once voted on, the Chair and Vice Chair will be asked to sign the policy.

c) CEDAW Call

Teresa and Lisa were invited to a virtual meeting for Cities for CEDAW. CEDAW is a grassroots effort to advance strategies to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women.

d) Title VI Interview

Teresa reported she is scheduled to be interviewed by the consultants developing the City's Title VI plan. Title VI is part of the Civil Rights Act and requires localities to have in place assurances that financial and planning decisions along with city services are accessible for all residents.

e) Fairfax Village in the City Advisory Board

With the resignations of Huilian and Roxann, the Village needs a new CFW rep. Taylor expressed an interest in attending the next Village Advisory Board meeting.

f) Fairfax Co. Commission for Women Luncheon (March 31)

Teresa was invited to attend Fairfax County's CFW Luncheon, which includes sharing information about the City's CFW.

Human Services Director's Report

a) Homelessness Task Force

Lesley reported that Mayor Read and Council Members Lim and Feingold are developing a homelessness task force. The membership makeup will be 3 city business owners, 3 city residents and 3 organizations linked to the homelessness service continuum. An application for possible members will be open in early March. Lesley will serve as staff support for the task force.

b) Annual Report 2022

Lesley provided a draft of 2022 CFW activities and asked for commission members to review and offer additional information. Will finalize the information in the March meeting.

1. Dates of Note

February

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

March

- ✓ Women's History Month
- ✓ International Women's Day-March 8
- ✓ Equal Pay Day-March 15

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