

March 21, 2023

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

Meeting Facilitator: Teresa Presson, Chair

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

### **Approval of February Meeting Minutes**

A motion was made by Taylor to approve the February 2022 meetings; seconded by Mary. Meeting minutes approved. The minutes were approved with two changes- correction of Johnelle's last name to Brown and change Lisa to Simmy in CEDAW agenda item.

### **Open Topics**

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

Mayor Read and Council Member Bates have confirmed their attendance at the May 16<sup>th</sup> meeting. Lesley agreed to send a reminder to the City Council about the meeting invitation. Teresa led a discussion about the agenda for the May 16<sup>th</sup> meeting. Members agreed to start with an ice breaker introduction followed by a presentation around the Commission's areas of focus, legislative areas and desired outcomes for both. Council attendees will be asked for feedback about how the CFW can support the community through their work.

Members agreed to develop questions to share with the Mayor and City Council Members prior to the May meeting. Those questions will be finalized in April. Potential topics suggested by members included:

- Mental Health in Fairfax City School (security officers; telehealth for students)
- Homelessness Task Force
- Title VI survey

- Discuss what supports/resources CFW need from Mayor and City Council to support the work of CFW.

**b) Chair's Updates**

Teresa reported on her February interview for the City's Title VI plan. During the interview, she recommended the interviewers include city teachers in the survey.

Teresa is invited to attend the Fairfax County's Commission for Women's upcoming luncheon on March 31. She was asked to provide a summary of the City CFW's efforts during the event.

**c) Women's History Month (March 2023)**

**1. Title IX Presentation (March 12, 2023)-debrief discussion.**

Feedback about the event included:

- i. The speakers were excellent, depth of perspective from various speakers gave diverse perspectives.
- ii. Title IX History provided was well received.
- iii. Having a male moderator brought a good balance.
- iv. Attendance was adequate, and the event was well planned. Will consider strategies to improve attendance for further events.
- v. Consider adding audience questions to future presentations.
- vi. Networking session after event to engage with speakers.
- vii. Planning for 2024 topic needs to be decided by early fall.

**2. Proclamation from Mayor and City Council for Women's History Month at March 14, 2023 City Council meeting.**

**3. Social Media Celebration for Woman of Influence Award.**

The original plan to use social media to celebrate the women nominated for the WOI award the week leading up to the award ceremony. Lesley and Simmy met with Chris Cohen, City Communications staff on March 8 to discuss how social media can support CFW communication needs. Lesley reported that the first WOI nominee posted had a political tone and was pulled by Communications along with the remainder of the WOI posts were put on hold. After discussion about the situation, Lisa agreed to craft a letter to the City Manager to

reconsider posting the nominees information but in a single post. Letter will also state CFW's plan moving forward to approve anything posted on social media on their behalf. During the debrief in April, the nomination criteria will be reviewed for possible modifications effective 2024.

4. **Women of Influence Award Ceremony (March 28)**

Members reviewed and requested amendments to the WOI program. It was agreed that the reception would include bottled water and cookies. Members were asked to arrive by 5:45 and wear purple or black. Also reminded to bring donations for Gabby's Fairfax High School food pantry drive.

5. **Women Owned Business Luncheon (March 31)- event update.**

Taylor has served as CFW contact for this luncheon. Members discussed and decided against having a table at the event. Lisa and Mary stated they may attend the luncheon.

**d). Fairfax Village in the City update**

Taylor is the new CFW representative for the Village Advisory Board. Both Lesley and Taylor attend monthly advisory board meetings.

**New Business**

**a) Virtual Meeting Policy-vote**

The vote was deferred until April due to meeting time constraints.

**b) Invitation from Alexandria CFW for June 8<sup>th</sup> presentation**

CFW invited to co-host discussion on Virginia Post-Dobbs decision (linked to Roe V Wade). Mary agreed to reach out to Alexandria contact to find out more about the event. Will report out in April meeting.

**c) Social Media Plan for CFW**

The discussion was deferred until April due to meeting time constraints.

**d) Student Representative for 2023-2023**

Teresa agreed to continue to serve as the point person for this process. Application will be reviewed in April CFW meeting then recruitment will be initiated. Teresa pointed out the importance of CFW members serving a mentoring role for student reps.

### **Human Services Director's Report**

Lesley requested members for feedback about the draft 2022 Annual Report. Lesley asked for suggestions on how to highlight April dates of note.

The April agenda will include a discussion on areas of focus "champions", with a goal to link members' individual interests to the focus areas.

Members discussed and voted to cancel the June CFW meeting.

Mary made a motion to close the meeting; Lisa seconded the motion.

Submitted by Simmy King

Next meeting scheduled for April 18, 2023