

**Commission for Women, City of Fairfax**  
**Meeting Minutes for August 15,2023**

Name	Present
Teresa (Presson) Byrne (Chair)	X
Lisa Whetzel (Vice Chair)	X
Marilena Bustamante (student rep)	Begins September 19, 2023
Simmy King	A
Mary Baker-Mezlo	X
Brenda Kuhlman	A
Johnelle Brown	X
Filomena Crawford	A
Taylor Geaghan	X
Hogai Aryoubi	X
Lesley Abashian	X

**Meeting Facilitator: Teresa Byrne, Chair.**

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 PM by Teresa.

**Approval of the June Meeting Minutes**

A motion was made by Taylor to approve the minutes. Mary seconded the motion. July minutes approved without revisions.

**Open Topics**

**a) Orientation for Mayor and City Council about Commission for Women.**

Mayor and City Council will be invited to the October meeting. Lesley will send out an electronic invite to Mayor and City Council. Discussed having a CFW member also do a public comment at a September Council meeting, but it wasn't determined who will provide this public comment. Lesley recommended doing a public comment at the last meeting in September or first meeting in October.

Three questions for Mayor and Council members:

- Affordable Housing: Are women disproportionately by lack of affordable housing in the City? How about women who find themselves unhoused? What does the City's recent Housing Survey tell us?
- Childcare: Lack of affordable childcare impacts women in the workforce. Is the Mayor and City Council invested in supporting fiscal and programmatic options to help women off-set costs?

- What is the Mayor and City Council's focus for their term? How does the focus support and empower women in our City?

**b) Fairfax Village in the City Update**

Taylor reminded members of the upcoming Village volunteer appreciation event planned for October 18<sup>th</sup>.

**c) Social Media Plan for Fall**

Simmy was unable to attend the August meeting but provided Lesley a couple social media posts for Women's Equality Day. Simmy and Mary will coordinate social media posts for September-December.

**New Business**

**a) Approved: Virtual Participation Policy (follow up)**

Discussed CFW's Remote Participation Policy. Voted 5-0 to approve the Remote Participation Policy as presented. Lisa made the motion; Johnelle seconded the motion. Teresa asked Lesley to further clarify the remote participation requirements (can you participate remotely if on vacation? Can the Owl be set up in the CM Library?)

**b) Planning: Fall Festival Planning (event: 10/14/23)**

- Teresa discussed purchasing chip clips with CFW logo for fall festival. Cost: approximately \$400 for 250 clips. Cost includes set up cost. Mary made a motion to support purchase: Lisa seconded motion. 5-0 vote supporting purchase.
- Teresa working on creating women's history survey using QR code as CFW did for last year's fall festival.
- Discussed giving out "You Matter" business cards and/or making available post cards so individuals stopping at the table can send a message of support to another person. Will continue to discuss this idea.
- Hogai mentioned the possibility of having a photo booth at the table. Will check out logistics of doing so with her husband who has access to a booth.
- Discussed the possibility of having opportunity for individuals to participate in "Women of Fairfax City" photos at the table.
- Lesley will bring a sign-up schedule for the event to September's meeting.

**c) Planning: Women's History Month (March 2024)**

2024 theme is "Women Who Write the Stories". Members continued to discuss possible activities to host during Women's History Month in March 2024. Members asked Lesley to reach out to Historic Resources to see if they want to collaborate on an event. Also discussed the possibility of initiating a joint community service project with GMU

Women's Athletics. Johnelle mentioned hosting a coffee chat for women owned businesses or another activity that allows CFW members to engage with the greater community. Teresa suggested a possible Register to Vote event and agreed to check with League of Women Voters about collaborating.

It was noted that the City's CFW has been in existence for 40 years and we should celebrate that milestone during Women's History Month.

**d) Discussion: November CFW Meeting**

Teresa led a discussion about either cancelling or rescheduling the November CFW meeting because it lands the week of Thanksgiving. Members agreed that the meeting should be cancelled but would like to plan a service project in lieu of the meeting. Asked members to consider service project ideas so it a plan can be developed at the September meeting.

**Human Services Director Report**

**a) Budget Report (FY 24)**

- Budget Update:
  - 1) Question: Can CFW donate un-used budget funds to a nonprofit?
  - 2) Current Budget Available:
- Proposed purchases: New Name Tags (Johnelle); Chip Clips (Teresa)
- Members discussed need to develop targeted budget for FY 24 to ensure total budget available is utilized. Budget items for FY 24 will include:
  - 1) Fall Festival
  - 2) Women of Influence Event
  - 3) Holiday Donation
  - 4) Women's History Month activities
  - 5) Member celebrations
  - 6) Miscellaneous

**b) City of Fairfax Housing Survey- report-out**

**c) Agenda Items for October Meeting**

- 1) Finalize October Mayor and City Council orientation.
- 2) Fall Festival- planning and schedule sign-up.
- 3) FY 24 budget plan
- 4) Women's History Month follow up items.
- 5) Fall social media posts.
- 6) EDA-CFW Joint Event for Woman Owned Businesses

**The next Commission for Women meeting is scheduled for September 18 at 7 pm**

*Submitted by Lesley Abashian*