

City of Fairfax
Commission for Women
Meeting Minutes for January 21, 2020

Present: Pat Addison, Mary Baker, Stacey Hardy-Chandler, Brenda Kuhlman, Lara Nayar, Teresa Presson, Roxann Rowley, Beth Young and staff Lesley Abashian.

Not Present: Huilan Larson, Lisa Whetzel.

- I. **Welcome:** Pat and Lesley welcomed new Commission Member Mary Baker.

- II. **Approval of Minutes:** The November 19th meeting minutes were approved with minor corrections.

- III. **Women’s Suffrage Celebration 2020:**
 - a) **Women’s History Month:** It will take place Sunday, March 8 at 2 pm in the City Hall Council Chambers. The speaker Kate Campbell Stevenson is an historical re-enactor who will present “Amending America: How Women Won the Vote”. Members approved \$300 payment of the speaker’s \$600 fee while the Office of Historic Resources will pay the remaining \$300. The event will be advertised/publicized in several ways including on the City website, CFW’s Facebook page, CityScene and on the City’s cable channel. Information will also be shared with others including area Commissions for Women and George Mason.
 - b) **Mary Church Terrell Screening:** The Office of Historic Resources is hosting a screening of “*Dignity and Defiance: A Portrait of Mary Church Terrell*” by filmmaker Robin Hamilton. Ms. Terrell was seen as a trailblazer who was involved in both the suffrage movement and the creation of the NAACP. The screening will be on Sunday February 9 at 2 pm at Blenheim.
 - c) **Timeline of Upcoming Events:** Lesley is putting together a calendar of suffrage-related events in the area. Included will be the George Mason’s Sojourner Truth Lecture series event on February 18 entitled

“An Intersectional Mixtape: Lessons Learned from a Black Women Scholar in the Academy”. The event is sponsored by GMU’s Women and Gender Studies, African and African American Studies, Interdisciplinary Curriculum Collaboration, University Life and Housing and Residence Life.

- d) The Office of Historic Resources will host a traveling exhibit related to suffrage at the Fairfax Museum in the summer.

IV. Women Owned Business Luncheon Update

The third annual event will take place at the Stacy Sherwood Center on Sunday March 18. A panel of businesswomen will present in lieu of a keynote speaker. The panel will consist of Sheila Kelly (owner of an employment agency); Kay Bella (event planner); Cleopatra (Fast Signs). Exhibitors will have their display tables on one side of the event. There are 134 tickets available (114 tickets plus 20 VIP tickets). Fifteen percent of the tickets are already sold. Commission members will purchase their own tickets for \$18 plus fees/tax (total \$21.99) on the Eventbrite website. Ticket sales cease a week before the event or sooner if the event sells out. A flyer was distributed last week to announce the event and will be shared through the City’s social media accounts and on the City website. Members approved \$250 to help sponsor the event.

Set up will include the following: Organize tables/chairs; set up table for name tags; CFW table; labels for exhibitors’ tables, flowers for tables, presenter introductions.

V. Women of Influence Recognition

Pat and Roxann met to develop a proposed process for recognizing and honoring women who have made significant contributions to the lives of City residents. The recipients will be recognized by Mayor and City Council on March 24 which coincides with Women’s History Month Information about the award will be distributed to Mayor and Council, local nonprofits, City Departments, City Schools, local civic organizations, area churches along with through social media and on the City website. Deadline for nominations will be February 28. The nominee (or group of nominees) must reside in the City. Members discussed certificates and an accompanying token of appreciation.

VI. Student Project Update

Lara shared information related to her project focused on voter registration of Fairfax High School students. She has designed a brochure and a video providing information on how to register to vote. Additionally Lara will have a display in the HS library to commemorate the Centennial of the 19th Amendment.

VII. Legislative Agenda for Commission:

Lesley shared the letter submitted to the Mayor and Council supporting the ERA. Teresa suggested that we partner with Fairfax County in declaring support for legislation for equal pay; March 31 is Equal Pay Day. The National Association of Commissions for Women support a number of legislative agendas including affirmative action; protecting human rights; supporting equity in education/ technology; equal pay; social service reform to reduce poverty for older women; health promotion; violence prevention; and family support policies and initiatives targeting women.

Members discussed developing a legislative agenda that links to the Commission's Areas of Focus.

VIII. Finalizing Areas of Focus 2020-2022

Members discussed the draft of the areas regarding advising, collaborating, recognition, advocating, celebrating and other objectives to define our role. Members agreed to accept the 2020-2020 Areas of Focus with some grammatical changes and thanked Pat for her work in coordinating this effort.

IX. Human Services Director Update

- a) The current budget funds available is under \$2100. A donation to Families Forward from member contributions at the holiday party included \$10 from the budget so the total donation was \$100.
- b) The NACW Conference is July 21-23, 2020 in Loudoun County, VA. Lesley met with Loudoun's Commission Chair to get information about planning for the event. Teresa volunteered to be a part of the conference planning.

c) Dates of Note: February is American Heart Month and Eating Disorders Awareness and Screening.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brenda Kuhlman

DATES TO REMEMBER:

February 9: Mary Church Terrell Documentary at Blenheim- 2 pm

February 18: Sojourner Truth Lecture at GMU at 4:30 pm

February 18: Commission for Women meeting at 7 pm.

February 28: Deadline for nominations for Women of Influence

March 8: Women's History Month event at 2 pm

March 10: Annual CFW Report at City Council Meeting and Women's History Month Proclamation

March 18: Women Owned Businesses Luncheon

March 24: Women of Influence presentation and reception

July 19-22: NACW Conference in Loudoun County.