



**Baltimore County Commission for Women
Minutes of the Meeting
Thursday, February 16, 2017**

Present: Bella Owens, Vonzella Perry, Carmen Christiana, Lynda Stahl, Cheryl Brooks, Kelly Carter, Kimberly Bowen, Sheila Derman, Jennie Fernandez, Ruth Howard, Sabrina Jones, Jacqui Lampell, Renee McGuirk-Spence, Cecelia Myrick, Frances Smith, Helene Waranch, Nitsa Zdziera, Nancy Surosky, Phyllis Hall

Excused Absences: Theresa Barrett, Linda Forsyth

Unexcused Absences: Dorothy Foos, Emily Hunter

Call to Order: 6:05 p.m. by President Bella Owens

Minutes: Minutes of January 19, 2017 minutes accepted with no revisions.

Treasurer's Report: Beginning balance \$8,274.31; Expenses \$136.44; Ending balance \$8,137.87 (until June 30, 2017)

President's Report: Bella opened the meeting talking about the following upcoming events:

- 2017 Immigration Information Korean & Asian Community Briefing, Saturday, February 18, 2017, Columbia, MD
- Maryland Association of Human Relations/Rights Agencies – Maryland Human Rights Day 2017, Thursday, March 2, 2017, Annapolis, MD (Cecelia Myrick who serves on the Human Relations board asked that the commission collaborate with the board on pertinent events.)
- The Maryland Commission for Women – Maryland Women's Hall of Fame & Maryland Women of Tomorrow 2017 Induction and Awards Ceremony, Thursday, March 16, 2017, Annapolis, MD

Bella also announced Verizon's recipient of their "Community Innovator's" award. And the winner is Kelly Carter.... Congratulations Kelly!

Committee Reports

Women's Health: Phyllis Hall spoke and provided the commissioners with the following handouts:

- Baltimore County Drug Drop Box locations at all Baltimore County Police Precincts
- Informational flyer on how to safely store and dispose of medications

Public Policy Agenda: Sheila Derman reported that the MLAW's Legislative Agenda 2017 picks have all had some hearings. List includes:

- Rape Survivor Family Protection Act
- Rape and Physical Resistance
- MD Tort Claims Act – Claim Requirement (Sexual Assault in the Workplace)

- Women on Board Bill – Corporate Board Gender Diversity Requirements
- Equal Pay Salary History and Salary Range
- MD Healthy Working Families Act
- Fair Scheduling Act
- Reasonable Accommodations for Pregnant Workers

Women’s Equality/Diversity: Ruth Howard and Kelly Carter reported that the Equality and Diversity Committee’s “Tea and Talk” is scheduled for Thursday, September 14, 2017, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. at the Towson Library (first choice) or at other suggested central locations. Cost of food/beverage and event gift bags will be covered by solicitations and/or partnerships secured. Target population: all women with a focus on professional women from the grassroots level up to corporate executives. Desired number of participants: 50. Anticipated panel includes:

- Political: MD’s Speaker Pro-Tem., Del. Adrienne Jones
- Healthcare: Sr. V.P. of H.R. for Hopkins, Inez Stewart
- Banking Industry: V.P. of Harbor Bank of MD, Irvina Mallory
- Real Estate: Top Agent for Berkshire Hathaway Home Sales Realty, Solee Dubois
- First Responder: Baltimore County Asst. Fire Chief, Jennifer Aubert-Utz
- Judiciary/Legal: Baltimore County District Courts, Ret. Judge, Alexandra Williams

Pending the event’s success, they would like to pitch it as a model on a larger scale for the 2018 Conference.

Woman of the Year 2017: Renee reported that details of the event are well underway. Carmen added that the winners were notified and each has accepted. Press release is scheduled to go out on March 16th and invitations have been sent to the printer. Black & Gold Catering will once again cater the event. Nitsa said she would like to help out with the event.

Tuesday, March 28, 2017, 6 p.m.
County Council Chamber

Human Trafficking: Task Force – Nancy reported that the Women’s Commission Task Force group met recently with assigned key staff from the Health Department. Groups from the health department are already doing specific jobs. An inventory of what is currently going on in the county will be conducted so that the commission can assist with the gaps. The Women’s Commission is in partnership with the Health Department until additional grants/funding may become available in six months. The group will meet again in early April.

Frances reported that the Human Trafficking Panel will take place on April 24, 2017, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. at Goucher College. Facilitator/Moderator: Dr. Seble Dawit, Assoc. Professor, Peace Studies, Goucher College. Panelists include: Scott Shellenberger, Baltimore County State’s Attorney, Dr. Gregory Branch, Dir., Baltimore County Health and Human Services. Baltimore County Police Dept., Human Trafficking Unit, TBD, MD State Human Trafficking Task Force, TBD, Victim Speaker, TBD.

Domestic Violence: Nitsa reported the recent Police Chief reappointment to Police Chief Terry Sheridan and the CDC’s “VetoViolence” online portal open forum on “teen dating violence prevention”. Bella added that Baltimore County will now investigate ALL assaults.

Old Business/New Business: 40th year anniversary recognition will be included in the Woman of the Year awards ceremony. A proclamation has been requested to honor this milestone. Flavor Cupcakery is unable to supply a donation of a 40th anniversary cake or cupcakes, Carmen will check with Black & Gold Catering. Ruth will look into gathering historical women's commission data to further highlight the 40th anniversary.

For those commissioner's interested Bella announced that they can take a tour of the SAFE Program's facility located at the campus of the GBMC Hospital. The tour is scheduled for March 16, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. Commissioners should meet at the hospital.

Meeting Adjourned: 7:06 p.m.