



**Baltimore County Commission for Women
Minutes of the Meeting
Thursday, April 20, 2017**

Present: Bella Owens, Vonzella Perry, Carmen Christiana, Lynda Stahl, Linda Forsyth, Cheryl Brooks, Kimberly Bowen, Jennie Fernandez, Ruth Howard, Emily Hunter, Sabrina Jones, Jacqui Lampell, Renee McGuirk-Spence, Cecelia Myrick, Frances Smith, Nitsa Zdziera, Phyllis Hall, Nancy Surosky

Excused Absences: Theresa Barrett, Kelly Carter, Sheila Derman, Helene Waranch

Unexcused Absences: Dorothy Foos

Call to Order: 6:07 p.m. by President Bella Owens

Minutes: Minutes of February 16, 2017 minutes accepted with no revisions.

Treasurer's Report: Beginning balance \$8,137.87; Expenses \$2,450.15; Ending balance \$5,687.72 (until June 30, 2017)

President's Report: Bella opened the meeting and spoke about the following:

- April – "Sexual Assault and Protection" month
- SAVE THE DATE: NACW Conference, July 12-16, Buffalo, NY

Gentle reminder - Bella asked that commissioner's be mindful and respectful when commenting on other commissioner's subcommittee work.

Committee Reports

Woman of the Year 2017: Tuesday, March 28, 2017, 6 p.m., County Council Chamber
Jacqui Lampell reported that it was a great event all around and very well attended. Awardees shared heart- warming stories. Next year – more outreach to solicit a broader group of applicants. Frances Smith recommended that more definition be added into the criteria of the nomination form. Total cost of the event was \$2,980.09.

Women's Health: Phyllis Hall spoke about a Cancer Conference that she and Sabrina Jones will co-host. The conference is scheduled to take place June 22, 2017 on the eastside of the county. Some of the topics will include: cancer updates, prevention, treatments, survivorship, and end of life. The conference will include breakfast and lunch. More information to follow. Sabrina asked the commissioners about hosting the Family Fun Fest again sometime in late September, early October.

Women's Equality/Diversity: Ruth Howard reported that the "Tea and Talk" will now be a conference rather than a seminar. Conference settings are attended by likeminded people who share their views for the common good while seminars enhance the skills of the participants. Title: "Breaking Barriers – *Shattering the Steps for Success*" 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

They would like to have Bella deliver the welcome speech and remarks from the County Executive. Pending the event's success, they would like to pitch it as a model on a larger scale for the 2018 Conference.

Public Policy Agenda: Linda Forsyth reported the following:

- Family Law-Child Conceived Without Consent-Termination of Parental Rights (Rape Survivor Family Protection Act) (SB 574/HB 428) STATUS: both bills were amended in their respective Committees. Sen. Zirkin added an amendment that would require the names of the mother and child to be posted. Neither Chamber agreed to the other's amendments, so conference Committees were appointed. Senate: Senators Zirkin and Hough and in the House, Delegates Vallario, Moon, and B. Wilson. Sen. Zirkin didn't appoint the committee until 10 p.m. so no compromise ever occurred. Please take note that none of the conference committee members were women. This is the 10th year that the Bill has failed.
- Criminal Law-Sexual Offenses-Physical Resistance (SB 217/HB 429) STATUS: Signed by Governor Hogan 4/18.
- MD Tort Claims Act-Certain Claim Requirement (SB 336/HB 1373) STATUS: SB 336-Unfavorable/HB 1373-Withdrawn.
- Procurement-Nondisclosure Clauses and State Policy Formation and Composition of Board Of Directors (SB 971/HB 919) STATUS: SB 971 was amended in Committee and passed the Senate. It was held up in the House Rules Committee and never made it out. HB 919 had hearing on 2/15 but didn't receive a vote in Committee.
- Labor and Employment-Equal Pay-Job Announcement and Salary History Information Disclosure (SB 404/HB 439) STATUS: Unfavorable, hearing cancelled.
- Labor and Employment-MD Healthy Working Families Act (SB 230/HB 1) STATUS: both bills were amended significantly, however HB 1 did pass both Chambers and is awaiting Governor's signature.
- MD Fair Scheduling Act (SB 1145/HB 1615) STATUS: both bills were introduced very late, got stuck in Rules Committee and therefore had no hearing.
- Discrimination in Employment-Conditions Related to Pregnancy or Childbirth (HB 214) STATUS: Committee hearing on 2/14 but no Committee vote.

Human Trafficking: Frances Smith 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, Captain Wes Fischer, Commander, Baltimore County Police Dept.-Vice-Narcotics Section, Candace Parrott, Public Awareness Chair, MD Human Trafficking Task Force. Co-Chairs: Kimberly Bowen and Frances Smith. Frances

provided the commissioners with a flyer and encouraged them to get the word out. Frances also provided a handout on "Salvation Army Combats Human Trafficking". Nancy asked Phyllis if she would follow-up with Mark Millspaugh about scheduling another Human Trafficking Task Force meeting with the health department group.

Domestic Violence: Nitsa Zdziera reported on MCASA's final 2017 Legislative Priorities Report: **Bills that passed:** No Means No-Rape and Physical Resistance, Sexual Assault Victims Resources Act of 2017, Expanding Statute of Limitations in Civil Child Sexual Abuse Cases, HIV and HepC Testing for Rape Survivors, Earned Safe and Sick Leave, Rape Kit Retention and Survivor Notification, Human Trafficking-Statewide Training for Law Enforcement, Human Trafficking of Children-Child Protective Services, Human Trafficking Adult Entertainment Establishments-National Human Trafficking Resource Center Hotline Information, MD Legal Services Corp. Funding, Conditions of Pre-and Post-Trial Relief (Amber's Law), Classification of Rape, and Child Abuse-Definition. **Bills that failed to pass:** Rape Survivor Family Protection Act, Past Bad Acts, Certification of Victim Helpfulness- U Visas, Audits of Unfounded Sexual Assault Reports, Sexual Assault-Statewide Training for Law Enforcement, Trafficking Victims & Petty Crimes, Rape Kits-Testing and Tracking, Criminal Injuries Compensation, Restitution, and Rape Kit Reimbursement, Child Pornography-Discovery in Criminal Cases, Child Abuse-Evidence of Child's Statements, Consent Education. **No Votes:** Child Custody-Support SB368/HB508 and Oppose SB905, Permanent Protective Orders.

Nitsa also reported on the SAFE Program visit at GBMC that was attended by several of the commissioners. Cheryl Brooks recommended that the commissioners donate toiletries to the SAFE Program. Bella reminded the commissioners of the upcoming "Walk a Mile" event to benefit the SAFE Program this Saturday, April 22nd.

Old Business/New Business: Bella spoke about the upcoming election in June. Theresa Barrett will serve as Chair and will send out an e-mail to the commissioners with more details. Bella asked that Jacqui assist with the purchase of give away items for the Commission. Nancy said purchases should stay under \$1,000.

Meeting Adjourned: 6:53 p.m.