



**Baltimore County Commission for Women
Minutes of the Meeting
Thursday, June 15, 2017**

Present: Bella Owens, Vonzella Perry, Carmen Christiana, Dorothy Foos, Linda Forsyth, Jennie Fernandez, Sheila Derman, Phyllis Hall, Ruth Howard, Emily Hunter, Sabrina Jones, Jacqui Lampell, Cecelia Myrick, Frances Smith, Lynda Stahl, Nitsa Zdziera

Excused Absences: Kimberly Bowen, Kelly Carter, Cheryl Brooks, Renee McGuirk-Spence, Helene Waranch, Nancy Surosky

Unexcused Absences: Theresa Barrett

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

Minutes: Minutes of May 18, 2017 minutes accepted and approved.

Treasurer's Report: Beginning balance \$5,672.22; Expenses \$0; Ending balance \$5,672.22 (until June 30, 2017)

President's Report:

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- An order will be placed for a tablecloth imprinted with the WC logo, WC bags, and sticky notes.
- There was a brief discussion on Jackie Wilson's recent passing.
- Handout distributed for "Call for Submissions for The National Girls and Women of Color Council, Inc." writing contest.
- SAVE THE DATE: NACW Conference, July 12-16, Buffalo, NY
- Discussion on the U.S. President's proposed budget and its effect at the national level.
- Discussion on the Institute for Women's Policy Research (IWPR) forum which Bella attended on June 7, 2017. Feature topic was "From Persistence to Power: Facts, Truth, and Equity for Women research forum for changemakers. Bella suggested that the Women's Commission partner with the IWPR.

Committee Reports

Women's Health: Phyllis reminded the commissioners that seats are still available for the Cancer Updates and Issues: *Cancer Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment* Conference, June 22, 2017 at the Best Western Plus Hotel & Conf. Ctr., Baltimore, MD. This event is sponsored by the Baltimore County's Dept. of Health and co-sponsored by the Baltimore County Commission for Women. Carmen provided Phyllis with 50 Commission for Women brochures to be included in the handouts for the event.

Women's Equality/Diversity: Ruth reported that Kelly is currently working on sponsorships for the "Breaking Barriers – Shattering the Steps for Success" event scheduled for Thursday, September 14,

2017 at the Baltimore County Public Library-Randallstown branch, 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Ruth reported that letters would be going out to the panelist the following week and requested that a flyer be created for the event. Carmen provided Ruth with 50 of the following: cosmetic bags filled with mascara and nail polish, WC brochures and pens to be included in the handouts.

Public Policy Agenda: Shelia reported that she would be checking with MLAW for future agenda recommendations. Linda Forsyth reported that Gov. Hogan vetoed HB-1 (Paid Sick Leave). The Governor has directed the Committee on Paid Leave to collect data from employers and workers throughout Maryland to better understand access to paid leave policies and how this benefit is best met by a fair and flexible statewide leave policy. The committee has developed an online survey tool for businesses and employers to use to solicit feedback. There was discussion by several of the commissioners who attended Sen. Bobby Zirkin's forum of the current rape bill last May 31, 2017 at Stevenson University.

Human Trafficking: Frances Smith talked about a recent article on Human Trafficking prevention and suggestion to train the transit system industry (bus drivers, toll booth workers, etc..) to look for signs of potential human trafficking situations. There was also discussion for the Human Trafficking Task Force group to revisit its partnership with the Health Department and Police. Carmen will advise Nancy so she can set up a time for the meeting.

Domestic Violence: Nitsa provided the commissioners with a Save-the-Date handout for the 11th Annual Baltimore County Domestic Violence "*In Plain Sight*" conference taking place Friday, September 15, 2017, 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. at the Radisson Hotel North Baltimore.

Old Business/New Business: 2017 – 2018 Election of Officers. Phyllis collected and counted all ballots received. Bella was elected to serve another term as President, July 2017-June 2018 term.

Meeting Adjourned: 6:52 p.m.