



**Baltimore County Commission for Women
Minutes of the Meeting
Thursday, January 18, 2018**

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

Excused Absences: Cecelia Myrick

Unexcused Absences: Kelly Carter, Theresa Barrett, Lynda Stahl, Emily Hunter, Dorothy Foos

Call to Order: 6:06 p.m. by President Bella Owens

Minutes of October Meeting: November meeting minutes approved as submitted.

Treasurer's Report: Beginning balance \$9,501.90; Expenses \$0; Ending balance \$9,501.90

President's Report: Announcements: Bella announced that January is National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month, and Maryland currently have five Human Trafficking Task Force groups in place. She provided handouts and spoke about the following:

- The Montgomery County Commission for Women's Legislative Briefing takes place on January 28, 2018 in Rockville, MD.
- Baltimore County Commission for Women representation on the 19th Amendment Commission's website celebrating the 100th anniversary of the passage of the 19th Amendment to the United States Constitution.

Committee Reports

Woman of the Year: Carmen provided the update of the nomination deadline extension to January 19th and the many great nominations received so far. Date of the event is March 27, 2018.

Women's Health: Sabrina reported that Family Funfest is in the works. The event is scheduled to take place on Saturday, April 14, 2018 at the Randallstown Community Center. Baltimore County Health Department and WIC are confirmed participants. The group is reaching out to past sponsors and will sell vendor tables for \$50.00 each. It was noted that a job fair will also be taking place that day. Phyllis will reach out to Aging for their participation and will work on getting speakers. A save-the-date will go out in the near future.

Women's Equality/Diversity:

Diversity Dimension Panel Discussion (east side):

Ruth reported that they have confirmed the event for March 1, 2018 at the Perry Hall Library, 6 – 8 pm. Panelists include: Judge Vicki Ballou-Watts, Baltimore County Circuit Court, Asst. Fire Chief, Jennifer Aubert-Utz, Ann Saka, Zion Health Trainer Center, and Mahnoor Ahmed, Asst. Director, Towson

University. The group is currently working on donations, sponsors, Eventbrite and website. Ruth asked that all commissioners attending register on Eventbrite.

Diversity Dimension Panel Discussion (west):

Jacqui and Renee reported that they have confirmed April 17, 2018 at the Arbutus Library, 6 – 8 pm. They are currently seeking suggestions for speakers. A save-the-date will be issued in the near future.

Both groups have asked Bella to submit a budget request of \$2,500 combined to cover costs of light fare, signage, programming, and registration materials.

Public Policy Agenda: Linda reported that both she and Sheila attended the November 18th MLAW Conference. She provided a handout and spoke about the 2018 MLAW Agenda which included the following eight pieces of legislation:

- Rape Survivor Family Protection Act-SB 2
- Repeat Sexual Predator Prevention Act – No bill number as of yet
- Final Permanent Protective Orders – No bill number as of yet
- Expansion of MD’s Vacating Laws for Survivors of Human Trafficking – No bill number as of yet
- Healthcare Services for Pregnant Inmates – No bill number as of yet
- Discrimination in Employment-Conditions – No bill number as of yet
- Salary History & Information Disclosure – No bill number as of yet
- Job-Protected Leave – No bill number as of yet

The MLAW Legislative Reception will take place on Thursday, February 8, 2018.

Human Trafficking: Bella provided a handout and reported that the County Executive has agreed to the creation of a Human Trafficking Work Group operating under the umbrella of the Baltimore County Criminal Justice Coordinating Council. They are looking for members to fill the eight-member slots. The Work Group will be formed no later than June 1, 2018.

Domestic Violence: Nitsa had no report.

Old Business/New Business: Bella asked that commissioners contact her or Ruth with Annual Report questions.

Meeting Adjourned: 7:01 p.m.