



**Baltimore County Commission for Women  
Minutes of the Meeting  
Thursday, February 15, 2018**

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

**Excused Absences:** Theresa Barrett, Renee McGuirk-Spence, Helene Waranch, Sheila Derman

**Unexcused Absences:** Kelly Carter and Dorothy Foos

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

**Minutes of January Meeting:** Minutes approved as submitted.

**Treasurer's Report:** Beginning balance \$9,501.90; Expenses \$497.65; Ending balance \$9,004.25

**President's Report:** Bella announced that Linda Forsyth was not reappointed to serve on the commission (Linda was an appointment from the 4<sup>th</sup> councilmanic district). Several of the Commissioners who attended the MLAW Legislative Briefing and Reception on February 8<sup>th</sup> reported that it was very successful and well attended.

Bella provided handouts and spoke about the following:

- Women's Rally, Lawyer's Mall, February 19<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 p.m.
- MD Network Against Domestic Violence (Statewide Domestic Violence Conference), May 18, 2018, Annapolis, MD
- SB304 (Delaying the effective date of the Maryland Healthy Working Families Act until July 1, 2018) did not pass, therefore Maryland Healthy Working Families Act will be implemented immediately
- HB1 & SB2 (Rape Survivor Family Protection Act — Child Conceived Without Consent/Termination of Parental Rights) passed and signed by the Governor

Diversity Dimension budget request of \$2,500 was approved.

**Committee Reports:**

**Woman of the Year:** Bella and Nancy provided the update. 2018 Recipients are: Laura Clary, Woman of the Year; Jennifer Aubert-Utz, Woman Making a Difference; and Gabriella McLean, Young Woman of the Year. The date of the event was moved to March 1<sup>st</sup>. Invitations were mailed and awards were ordered.

**Women's Health:** Phyllis reported that Family Funfest is underway and scheduled to take place on Saturday, April 14, 2018 at the Randallstown Community Center. Phyllis also requested the Commission to consider co-sponsoring the Health Department's "Women's Health Conference" scheduled for June 29<sup>th</sup>, 2018. This informative event will be open to the public and provide valuable information on women's health. A motion was made, seconded and moved, Commission is a co-sponsor.

## **Women's Equality/Diversity:**

**Diversity Dimension Panel Discussion (eastside):** Ruth reported that date will be moved to June or September, will still take place in the Perry Hall area.

**Diversity Dimension Panel Discussion (westside):** A handout was provided outlining the Diversity Dimensions 2 details. Jacqui reported that Councilwoman Vicki Almond and Danette Zaghari-Mask, a member of the Muslim community, are confirmed speakers. They are looking for prospects from both the Jewish and African American communities. Bella requested that the caterer be a woman-owned business, Chairs will be contacting woman-owned catering businesses located for refreshments. A call was made to Lisa Robinson, WBAL TV News anchor, to possibly serve as moderator.

**Public Policy Agenda:** Bella stressed that Women's Commission members actively follow and encourage others to promote the eight agenda items that the Commission is supporting through MLAW.

**Human Trafficking:** Kimberly talked about the recent meeting held at Goucher College where the group met to discuss steps and the individuals who will fill the slots that will comprise the Baltimore County Human Trafficking Work Group. Frances added that the work group will consist of individuals from different sectors. The Baltimore County Criminal Justice Coordinating Council Chair Donna Morrison will solicit recommendations from department heads for members. Jennifer Stine of CASA has been approached and Mark Millspaugh from the Health Department will reach out to Police and Social Services.

**Domestic Violence:** Nitsa provided a handout and talked about GBMC's "Walk A Mile In Her Shoes" event scheduled to take place on Saturday, April 21, 2018. The Commission is a co-sponsor of this initiative.

**Old Business/New Business:** Bella announced that there will be no April meeting due to the many activities taking place that month. Nancy will talk to Mike Fields, County Lawyer, to look into the possibility of moving the commission's election time from June to May.

**Meeting Adjourned:** 6:48 p.m.