

**ALEXANDRIA COMMISSION FOR WOMEN
MEETING NOTES
TUESDAY, APRIL 9, 2024
301 KING STREET
7 PM**

ATTENDANCE:

T. Nicole Hutchinson	Maxanne “Maxie” Witkin	Kendra Green
Jennifer “Jenn” Stowe	Rachel Brill-Meckler	Emily Eckert
Matthew Worner (1 excused absence)	(2 excused absences)	(1 excused absences)
Lexi White (1 excused absence)	Jennifer Wetmore (1 excused absence)	Kafi Joseph
Elisabeth “PJ” Palmer Johnson (1 excused absence)	Crystal Kramer (2 excused absences)	
Nia Miller (2 excused absences)		

ABSENT:

Shelly Brown (3 excused absences) Anuja Miner (2 excused absences)
Yvette Jiang (1 excused absence)

STAFF:

Debra Evans
LaTanya Chinagorom

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC:

None.

WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER

Chair Kramer welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

There were no public comments.

APPROVAL OF MARCH 2024 MEETING MINUTES

The March meeting minutes were approved as amended to add the full Commission Liaison Report Outs to the minutes.

GUEST SPEAKER: PAT MILLER OF ALEXANDRIA CELEBRATES WOMEN!

Alexandria Celebrates Women! has been hosting Salons monthly celebrating women leaders in Alexandria. The kickoff was with the women Council people Sarah Bagley, Leah Gaskins, and Vice Mayor Amy Jackson. *Alexandria Celebrates Women!* raises funds for the Domestic Violence Shelter. The next events are from 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. as follows:

- April 18th celebrating the next woman leader Debra Evans.
- April - SCAN is selling tickets for \$10 each to see a playhouse that someone built. One person will win a raffle. Funds will go to Child Abuse Prevention Month.

- May 18th Gina White, who facilitates Mindfulness will be publishing a book on *Mindfulness with the Police*.
- October - Fashion Show for Domestic Violence Awareness Month (DVAM) and Breast Cancer Awareness month. **Action Item: Pat will ensure the Commission members are on the email listserv.**
- Honoring Women – Women who were outstanding during Covid who helped people will be honored.
- Women in History – Article in the times on the history of women. A video will be put together on the website.

Each program pays for itself and puts funding into the Women in Need to raise funds for the DV program.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE UPDATES (names of nominees)

The Commission for Women submitted nominations for the new Executive Board, which consists of Chair, First Vice Chair, Second Vice Chair, and Immediate Past Chair. Changes were announced Commissioner White has agreed to be a candidate for Chair of the Commission, Commissioner Hutchinson has agreed to be the candidate for First Vice Chair, and Commissioner Jiang is contemplating being Second Vice Chair of the Commission. A motion was made for Commissioners to self-nominate or nominate someone for the Executive Committee. No nominations were brought forth. The Commission can still nominate until the day of the elections in May 2024. **Action Item: Chair Kramer will verify if Commissioners can vote online (a quorum must be present in person). She will also find out if they can leave a proxy to vote. Action Item: Commissioner Palmer Johnson will verify with the City Attorney.**

50th ANNIVERSARY CONTENT/EVENTS

Proclamation and Reception: The Commission will have a small reception. The City Council will present the proclamation. The Commission revised the proclamation for the 50th anniversary. Commissioner Witkin would like to share some of the Report on women and Girls in the City of Alexandria. **Action Item: Chair Kramer will send the proclamation to all the Commission. Action Item: Chair Kramer and Commissioner Green will find out about gift card donations.**

Candidate Forum – The Commission would like to have all the candidates (Mayor and City Council) come in and speak before June 18, 2024. **Action Item: The Commission will check the social media policy. Action Item: Subcommittees will come up with one or two questions for the Councilmembers and email them to Commissioner Green by Wednesday, April 10th. The Councilmembers will be given two weeks to respond. Liaisons will inform City Councilmembers of the candidate forum.**

Social Media Campaign - Commissioners were asked to do a social media campaign. **Action Item: Commissioner Eckert volunteered to do graphics for a logo. Action Item: Commissioner Wetmore volunteered to draft the save-the-date messaging (it was suggested to have something mentioned of the anniversary as the commission is posting).**

PARTNERSHIPS WITH OTHER COMMISSIONS

Chair Kramer asked if the Commission should continue to liaise with the Human Rights, Aging, HIV/AIDS Commissions. Commissioner Wetmore suggested that this subject be tabled again to discuss at the retreat. The Commission's Charter was discussed. Liaisons are set up in the Charter. It was noted that the Charter can be changed through City Council. The Commission adjourns in June, and reconvenes in September. There will be no July 2024 meeting for the Commission; it is not required.

REPORT OUTS FROM SUBCOMMITTEES & COMMISSION LIAISONS

The Commission liaisons and subcommittees reported on the following:

Affordable Housing & Transportation – the subcommittee plans to have a guest speaker present at the May 2024 Commission meeting (Director of Office on Housing). **Action Item:**

Commissioner Hutchinson asked that Commissioners provide questions.

Survivor Support – Chair Kramer set up the Doodle poll for passing out bookmarks; 6 people are available on April 23rd 9 people on April 30th. Everyone took bookmarks with them, provided by Debra Evans. Commissioners chose which Metro stops to go to. **Action Item: Commissioners were asked to take selfies for social media. Action Item: Debbie will order 1K more bookmarks for April 30. Action Item: Commissioners will take bookmarks to Ramsay Elementary and ALIVE! and to pass out bookmarks at any event they attend.**

Survivor Support is planning a Fireside Chat event May 22, 2024, 7 p.m., at the Redella “Del” Pepper Community Resource Center in Rm. 1305A. The chat is geared toward human services and humanitarian service professionals for their work as survivor supports. Dimple Dhabalia, author and leadership coach who wrote a book “Tell Me My Story: Challenging the Narrative of Service Before Self” will be there. Books will be available for purchase. The event may be recorded. The Owl system will be used. It was suggested that any local organization can attend. **Action Item: The Commission should create flyers and come up with the language for the flyers.**

Reproductive Rights – Congratulations were extended to the Reproductive Rights Subcommittee for a great webinar on Black Women's Maternal Health. There were 65 registrants and 42 registrants who attended. The event was recorded. Birth in Color were on the webinar. They are planning a community baby shower. The one in Alexandria is being held on July 17, 2024 (Community Baby Shower), location TBD. Donations can be dropped off at Together We Bake 212 S Washington Street anytime. **Action Item: Commissioner Eckert will confirm if donations are needed in advance. She will also circulate the information.**

Commissioner White shared that Council Woman Gaskins emailed that she will collaborate on a

legislative package that the Commission could advance locally. Thanks were extended to the Commission. **Action Item: Commissioner White will work with the subcommittee will look into this further.**

HIV/AIDS Commission – Commissioner Hutchinson is not sure if she will continue her term. They have questions that she will submit to Debra Evans. They are supporting Sexual Assault Awareness Month and are planning for Pride month in June 2024.

Human Rights – Since November the Human Rights Commission had 40 citizens at each meeting to speak to City Council about the issue in Gaza. A meeting was held at La Madeleine. The Alexandria Human Rights Commission wrote a letter to City Council and supported Congressman Don Byers’ resolution for a cease-fire. The next speaker is going to be Sheriff Sean Casey. **Action Item: Commission was asked to provide questions to Commissioner Palmer Johnson (due before Friday, April 12th).**

Aging Commission – The Aging Commission meets Thursday, April 11th with a special presentation from Gaily Cone. They will also review the approval of the electronic meeting policy. Commissioner Stowe will not be attending this meeting.

DASH – See page 5 for report.

Commissioner/City Council Engagement – The liaison responsibility for Vice Mayor Jackson is handed over to Commissioner White.

Housing projects need \$55M in funding and they have not given them anything for these projects. Commissioners who would be willing to speak on the subject should show up on April 11, 7 – 8:30 p.m. at the Del Pepper Community Center. **Action Item: The information will be sent to Debra Evans and disseminated to the Commission.**

Question about listservs: The Commission for Women can add items on their SharePoint page. Email addresses can be accessed through Zoom. Action Item: We would find out how we can have people opt-in or out of email lists. Someone would have to manage the list.

ONBOARDING FOR NEW COMMISSIONERS

The onboarding package for new commissioners are being worked on by Debra Evans and LaTanya Chinagorom and they will provide the package to the Commission soon.

NEXT STEPS AND ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 PM. The subcommittees met after this meeting.

DASH Liaison Report Out

DASH Advisory Committee Report Out ACFW 4.9.24

Liaison: Commissioner Yvette Jiang

DASH Celebrates 40 Years of Keeping Alexandria Moving with Rider Pop-ups

In the four decades since March 11, 1984, DASH has evolved and adapted its routes and offerings to meet the changing needs of our community. Today, DASH offers fare-free service with a growing fleet of 100% electric buses, reflecting Alexandria's commitment to sustainability and equitable access for all.

DASH Advisory Committee Wrote to City Council on FY25 Budget

DAC advocated for funding for Line 32 improvement the current 60-minute service levels during middays, evenings and weekends are not meeting the growing needs of communities along Holmes Run Parkway, South Pickett Street, and Eisenhower Avenue. Line 32 plays a vital role in connecting residents, particularly those residing in areas off Van Dorn Street and Holmes Run Parkway, to key destinations within Alexandria.

DASH Advisory Committee Wrote to TES Director on King Street/Bradlee Proposed Changes

DAC supported Alternative #2 for the King Street-Bradlee Safety & Mobility Enhancements project. It offers the most significant improvements for bus riders, pedestrians, and overall traffic flow in the area. This corridor is served by Lines 35 and 36A/B. With a one-way traffic configuration and dedicated bus lane, it would offer the greatest benefits for buses.