

**ALEXANDRIA COMMISSION FOR WOMEN
MEETING NOTES
TUESDAY, MAY 14, 2024
301 KING STREET
7 PM**

ATTENDANCE:

T. Nicole Hutchinson	Maxanne “Maxie” Witkin	Kafi Joseph
Jennifer “Jenn” Stowe	Rachel Brill-Meckler	Emily Eckert
Matthew Worner (1 excused absence)	(2 excused absences)	(1 excused absences)
Lexi White (1 excused absence)	Yvette Jiang (1 excused absence)	
Elisabeth “PJ” Palmer Johnson (1 excused absence)	Crystal Kramer (2 excused absences)	Shelly Brown (3 excused absences)
Nia Miller (2 excused absences)	Anuja Miner (2 excused absences)	

ABSENT:

Kendra Green
Jennifer Wetmore (3 excused absences)

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 APRIL 2024 MEETING MINUTES

The April 2024 meeting minutes were approved as drafted.

GUEST SPEAKER: Helen McIlvaine, Director of Housing, City of Alexandria

The Director of Housing provided an overview of the 2023 Housing Master Plan and update. It was noted that the Home American Rescue Plan can help women and survivors of domestic violence and Housing will be working with the Department of Community and Human Services (DCHS). Voices are needed to speak up and support the work. The collaboration opportunities identified are: Advocacy (women are 30% of the homeless population); Anti-displacement tools; Senior Housing +care, and strengthening aging condominium communities. They will facilitate relationships and collaborations between the residents and lenders/vendors. **Action Item:**

Ms. McIlvaine will provide the presentation slides and the number of women single and heads of households to the Commission.

EXECUTIVE BOARD ELECTIONS

The Commission for Women submitted nominations to Commissioner Palmer Johnson for the new Executive Board, which consists of Chair, First Vice Chair, Second Vice Chair, and Immediate Past Chair. The slate was Commissioner Lexi White for Chair, Commissioner T. Nicole Hutchinson for First Vice Chair and Commissioner Yvette Jiang for Second Vice Chair. Commissioner Witkin motioned to approve the slate as presented. Second Vice Chair Brown seconded. None opposed. The slate was accepted by acclamation.

50th ANNIVERSARY UPDATES

Together WE Bake is going to donate cookies for the event. A Proclamation will be read, and a reception will be held.

CANDIDATE FORUM UPDATES

Candidate Forum – It was suggested to merge the award to Susan Kellom and Redella “Del” Pepper (Honorary members for life). The subcommittee will revisit the award categories. The Commission would like to honor community members and advocates, small business community members, Association Partner Award (for DASH) and make certificates or plaques. A student award was suggested for community services (in conjunction with the Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day [TODSTWD] next year). It was suggested to drop the TODSTWD. **Action Item: Commissioner Miller stated that she is willing to vouch for some students. Action Item: Someone will check bylaws about honorary membership.**

Social Media Campaign - It was suggested to use Eventbrite and to add the registrants who sign up to the Commissions’ email listserv. **Action Item: First Vice Chair Miner stated check with an art therapist to provide artwork. The Commission would like to have a videographer for the event. Action Item: Commissioners Eckert and Stowe will create a save the date.**

REPORT OUTS FROM SUBCOMMITTEES & COMMISSION LIAISONS

Survivor Support – Thanks were extended to everyone who handed out the bookmarks. They handed out 500 brochures. Also, the subcommittee is hosting a Fireside Chat with author, Dimple Dhabalia, on Wednesday, May 22, 7 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. at 4850 Mark Center Drive. **Action Item: All were asked to share information on social media and RSVP for the event.**

Reproductive Rights – The two-year anniversary for the *Dobbs* decision is coming up June 2024. **Action Item: Commissioners were asked for ideas to commemorate this anniversary. It was suggested to bring back a resolution to tie in the themes about Black maternal health and reproductive healthcare access. Action Item: The Reproductive Rights subcommittee will**

discuss.

HIV/AIDS Commission – The HIV/AIDS Commission did not meet last month.

Human Rights Commission – The Human Rights Commission met on April 16, 2024. They now have a new Commissioner. They discussed honoring Susan Kellom. The next guest speaker will be the new Alexandria Police Chief. They worked on the Rainbow crosswalk, which will be revealed during the Pride Fair, Saturday, June 1, 3 p.m. – 6 p.m. The Commission also provided outreach at the ALIVE! food hub on Saturday, May 11th. The next Commission meeting is Tuesday, May 21st. **Action Item: Debra Evans will send the flyer for the Pride Fair and will ask the LGBTQ Task force to be the next guest speaker for the June 2024 Commission for Women meeting.**

Aging Commission – The Aging Commission met Thursday, May 9th. They received an introductory presentation by EMS and the Fire Department on how calls are handled. They heard report outs from the committee. The next meeting is Thursday, June 13th. **Action Item: Commissioner Stowe will send the PowerPoint on the guidelines for electronic participation and material for voting to the new Chair, Commission for Women.**

DASH – Strollers are permitted to be on DASH buses without having to be folded if it does not obstruct access and is in the ADA area; the marketing campaign has been in place for two years. DASH hired a new director of marketing who is interested in putting more stories on social media. Commissioner Jiang met with Josh Baker, DASH General Manager. DASH will commit themselves as a responsible partner for the City. DASH hit 4.5M ridership this fiscal year and are aiming for 5M ridership next fiscal year. They discussed corridor safety improvements during the Bradlee Safety and Mobility Project meeting. which will take place Thursday. **Action Item: Commissioners who use strollers were asked to use strollers on buses to provide feedback.**

Commissioner/City Council Engagement – The new Chair is working on getting a sit down with Vice Mayor Jackson and invited her to attend the self-help event hosted by the Commission on May 22nd. An event was announced: a webinar hosted by the Democratic Black Caucus of VA, Saturday, June 15th. **Action Item: Commissioners were asked to attend City events in honor of Juneteenth. Information will be provided by City staff.**

NEXT STEPS AND ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:43 PM. A subcommittee met after this meeting.
