

ALEXANDRIA COMMISSION FOR WOMEN
MINUTES
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2024
VIRTUAL
7 PM

ATTENDANCE: Maxanne “Maxie” Witkin; T. Nicole Hutchinson; Elisabeth “PJ” Palmer Johnson; Kafi Joseph; Lexi White; Shelly Brown; Jennifer “Jenn” Stowe (1 absence); Yvette Jiang, Nichelle Johnson-Billups, and Krystle Bransky

ABSENT: Kendra Green and Emily Eckert

STAFF:

Debra Evans
LaTanya Chinagorom

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC:

Councilwoman-elect Jacinta Greene
Monika Chapman

WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER

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

The proposed amendment to hold the subcommittee break out groups in the January 2025 in-person meeting and to welcome aboard new Commissioner Krystle Bransky. Motioned to move the welcome to the top of the December 2024 agenda. A motion was made to accept the amendment of the agenda. Commissioner Palmer Johnson so moved. Commissioner Johnson-Billups seconded. All were in favor.

WELCOME NEW MEMBER KRYSTLE BRANSKY

All introduced themselves and welcomed Commissioner Bransky, who brings much expertise into the Commission.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Councilwoman-elect Jacinta Greene, former Commissioner of the Commission for Women, introduced herself and will be presenting along with Monika Chapman, a former Commissioner as well, to discuss the Vola Lawson Fund.

VOLA LAWSON BREAST CANCER FUND DISCUSSION – MONIKA CHAPMAN AND CITY COUNCILWOMAN-ELECT JACINTA GREENE

The history and challenges of trying to advocate for addressing women’s health were discussed. The Vola Lawson Fund is a donor advised fund. Provide funding resources for those in need through ACT for Alexandria (donations are tax deductible). The Status of Women and Girls in the City provided qualitative and quantitative data to identify the need for funding to City Councilmembers. The Vola Fund is meant to be connected to the Commission for Women.

Recommendations were as follows:

- Look at the first report and address some of the recommendations.
- Develop what implementation looks like through new data.
- Develop a score card on where the City is on gender equalities.
- Develop a roadmap.
- Understand resources to acquire data through implementation and desired outcomes.

APPROVAL OF THE NOVEMBER 2024 MINUTES

One recommended change under the naming of the subcommittee's topic is the subcommittee indicated as "communications subcommittee" should be "community outreach and engagement" and one of the core responsibilities within that subcommittee included developing information materials and social media content. Chair White moved to approve the change in the November 2024 meeting minutes as amended. Commissioner Witkin so moved. Commissioner Brown seconded. All were in favor.

COMMISSIONER BIOS FOR THE WEBSITE

All were asked to send their bios or updates to their previously posted bios for posting on the Commission's website before the holidays.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Adopt-A-Family** – The spreadsheet for donations is live for Commissioners to access. First Vice Chair Hutchinson will be collecting the items on December 11th. Commissioners have filled out the spreadsheet she created for all to sign up. They will also assist with gift wrapping.
- **Children's Holiday Party**- Bagging of the gifts begin at 1pm on December 11th. The party will be held on Thursday evening 6pm – 8:30pm. Children who have come through the Domestic Violence Program within the last 18 months. **Action Item: All were asked to arrive between 5:15pm and 5:30pm for the party and to text Debra Evans about bagging the gifts on December 11th.**
- **January Social Hour/Panel Discussion** – No update yet.
- **ACFW Status Report Update** – The link was provided for all to review the report.
https://media.alexandriava.gov/docs-archives/dchs/webboxes/2018=cfw=statusofwomenreport.pdf?_gl=1*1svka8a*_ga*MTM1MzU4Mjg5LjE3MzI1NDY2NDI.*_ga_249CRKJTTH*MTczMjU0NjY0Mi4xLjAuMTczMjU0NjY0Ni4wLjAuMA.

The floor was open for those to share what the 2018 Status Report process was. The data in the report was conducted through different agencies. The report would provide avenues and opportunities for the community to be involved. The Commission is still seeking a lead for the Community and Outreach Subcommittee and this lift should involve both the Community and Outreach and Advocacy subcommittees. Suggested resources to assist with assessing data are the Community Health Assessment Plan and the Housing 2024 Plan. The Children and Youth Collaborative Commission has a score

card. It was suggested that the Commission have a score card that can be used as a collaborative and educational tool, as well as holding the Commission accountable and assessment. **Action Item: All were asked to come to the January 2025 meeting with recommendations on what needs updating and what can be utilized. Action Item: Commissioners Palmer Johnson and Witkin will discuss areas that are overlapping with Commissioner Emily and report back at the next meeting.**

- **New Councilmember Pairing** – Commissioner Witkin – Councilman John Chapman, Commissioner Palmer Johnson – Councilman Kirk McPike, Second Vice Chair Jiang – Vice Mayor-elect Aaliya Gaskins, Chair White – Vice Mayor Amy Jackson, and Commissioner Joseph – Councilman Abdel-Rahman Elnoubi.

Commissioner Eckert, put together a task for their subcommittee to draft an email to the two new and the returning Council members in congratulating them on behalf of the Commission and outlining what the Commission's priorities are. It was suggested that the liaison names would go in a separate email.

The Executive Board will identify people who are interested in liaising with individual members. Two new members to the Commission will attend the January 2025 meeting. Commissioner Palmer Johnson will continue to work with Councilman McPike. Second Vice Chair Jiang will serve as liaison for the new Mayor.

Chair White motioned to discuss remaining four liaison commitments for the Councilmembers. It was seconded by Commissioner Witkin.

LIAISON REPORTS

Action Item: Liaison Reports will be sent to LaTanya Chinagorom (Human Rights). The Human Rights Commission will have a Human Rights Panel. Commissioner Palmer Johnson will share the information on certain protections for immigrants and ideas for the local community.

The Commission on Aging did not have a report.

NEXT STEPS AND ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:03 p.m.

IMPORTANT DATES / REMINDERS / ANNOUNCEMENTS – SEE ACFW CALENDAR FOR FULL LISTINGS

- January- Social Hour/Panel Discussion and Human Trafficking Awareness Month

UPCOMING COMMISSION MEETING DATE FOR 2025:

- January 14
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