

ALEXANDRIA COMMISSION FOR WOMEN

MINUTES

TUESDAY, APRIL 8, 2025

VIRTUAL

7 PM

ATTENDANCE: Lexi White; Maxanne “Maxie” Witkin; T. Nicole Hutchinson; Kendra Green (1 absence); Jennifer “Jenn” Stowe (1 absence); Krystle Bransky; Allison Heiser, Yvette Jiang (1 absence), Jennifer Beatty, and Cecelia Hunter, and Kafi Joseph (1 absence), Elisabeth Palmer Johnson (1 absence), and Nichelle Johnson Billups (1 absence)

ABSENT: Shelly Brown (excused) and Cecelia Hunter

STAFF:

Debra Evans

LaTanya Chinagorom

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: Tricia Allen

WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER

First Chair White welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m.

Thanks were extended for supporting and coming to Women’s History Month at City Hall.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Tricia Allen, the new Executive Director for Together We Bake, introduced herself and stated she joined the meeting to make connections with the Commission.

APPROVAL OF THE MARCH 4, 2025, (MAKE UP FEBRUARY MEETING) MINUTES

Commissioner Witkin moved that the Commission approve the March 4, 2025, meeting minutes as circulated. It was seconded by Commissioner Heiser. All were in favor.

PRESENTATION BY TAMARA JOVOVIC FROM THE OFFICE ON HOUSING 2040 PLAN

The Office on Housing 2040 Plan was presented by Tamara Jovovic from the Office on Housing. The plans help shape the development of goals and principles, strategies and work that has happened in the housing plans.

E-BOARD NOMINATIONS DISCUSSION

In March 2025, Commissioner Palmer Johnson asked for nominations for chair, First Vice Chair and Second Vice Chair. She received nominations for First Vice Chair and Chair. The position that is open is Second Vice Chair. Commissioner Palmer Johnson sent the bylaws via email. The current Chair agreed to run for a second term and the current Second Vice Chair agreed to run for First Vice Chair. All were encouraged to run for service. The floor was open for nominations.

Nominations are accepted up until the day of the May 2025 meeting. **Action Item: Contact Commissioner Palmer Johnson for nominations.**

ONBOARDING PACKET VOTE

Commissioner Joseph highlighted the changes to the onboarding document. A motion was made by Commissioner Johnson Billips to approve the use of the onboarding document. The motion was seconded by Second Chair Jiang. All were in favor. **Action Item: The Commission approved the document and will issue an addendum to add the new subcommittee structure. A copy will be sent to Debra Evans who will forward it to the full Commission. Items in the document can be revisited, and additions can be made moving forward.**

SUBCOMMITTEE AND LIAISON ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PILLARS FOR DISCOVERY PHASE FOR STATUS REPORT

DASH – Currently DASH is seeking community input related the FY 26 budget and 2026 – 2034. Some improvements are not funded in the budget lines. Economic Security and vulnerability.

- Advocacy and City Council Relations
 - o Commissioner Palmer Johnson met with Vice Mayor Sarah Bagley and Councilman Kirk McPike. **Action Item: The Commission should let them know if there is anything that they need (through Commissioner Palmer Johnson).**
 - o **Action Item: The meeting with Councilwoman Jacinta Green will be posted by LaTanya Chinagorom.**
- Community Outreach & Engagement
 - o *Social and Engagement Plan* – April will include Sexual Assault Awareness Month and some history on Take Our Sons and Daughters to Work Day on the Facebook Page. Black Maternal Health Week begins on Friday, April 11th - April 18th. It was suggested to recognize community partners as well.
 - o *Carpenter's Shelter Opportunity* – Commissioners will meet at the Carpenter's Shelter on May 29th, 5:30 p.m. They will serve dinner at 6 p.m.
- Events Coordination
 - o *Farmer's Market Tabling* – The Events Subcommittee is reaching out to local Farmer's Markets. Commissioner Green put together a pamphlet for the tables. ACAP would like to join the Commission on tabling at events. **Action Item: Once content and approvals are complete for the pamphlet, Debbie will send it to DCHS Communications for approval.**
- Advocacy and City Council Relations
 - o *Women's History Month Proclamation* – Thank you to all who attended and to those who helped share with community partners, strong showing of community support.
- *Member Engagement & Volunteer Coordination* -

It was recommended to put an announcement for a Youth Commissioner at the Youth Speaks event. The youth membership role will mirror the school year. A change would have to be made in the bylaws and the charter through City Council. **Action Item: Debra Evans will contact the City Clerk on the subject. Commissioners will discuss youth membership with Councilmembers. Action Item: Commissioner Bransky will reach out to the American Legion Post 24 to see who attended Girl and Boy State, which is a program that assists them in learning about public service. Commissioner Joseph will be the point of contact.**

Human Rights Commission -

- The Human rights Commission met on March 18. Anna McClure, Acting Director, provided an update on the Legal Aid Justice Center. They will have a representative from the Legal Aid Justice Center serve as a guest speaker in June 2025. The Human Rights Commission has decided they will focus on three issues on immigration: 1) immigration 2) DEI initiatives, and 3) the Police Civilian Review Board.

The next guest speaker will be Mayor Aaliyah Gaskins (the meeting is May 20th). **Action Item: Commissioners are asked to provide questions for Mayor Gaskins.** The next meeting will be their 50th anniversary, all were encouraged to attend.

Commission on Aging – None.

Recap of where we landed on “The Five Pillars” for Subcommittee Discovery Work
The Five Pillars – The Commission has four subcommittees and is doing discovery around five pillars, looking to previous Status of Women Report as a model. The subcommittees provided their preferences for pillars they will take on for discovery, which are as follows:

- 1) Economic Security & Vulnerability (E-board)
- 2) Barriers to Opportunity (Community Outreach Subcommittee)
- 3) Healthcare (Advocacy Subcommittee)
- 4) Women in Leadership (Membership and Volunteers Subcommittee)
- 5) Safety (Events Subcommittee)

*Subcommittee Leads’ next step is to develop uniform “Discovery Guidance”

E-Board Announcements

- Sexual Assault Awareness Month-April
- Child Abuse Awareness Month- April
- Teal Out Day- April 1st
- Pinwheel Garden Event- April 4th at 9:30 a.m. at Charles Hill Park- 300 E. Oxford Ave
- Pinwheel Garden Event – April 17th at 10 a.m. at 4850 Mark Center Drive
- Mental Health Awareness Month- April 11th
- Denim Day- April 30th
- Poetry Share (at the Lyceum)- **April 29th- 6-8:30pm.**
- Asian Heritage Awareness Month & Mental Health Awareness Month - May
- May 10th, 2025, City of Alexandria Eco-Festival, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. at Brenman Park, 4800 Brenman Park Drive
- Black Maternal Health Week-April 11th- April 18th

- Community Cook Out – Booth Park 1 – May 14th
- Pride Day- June 28th

SUBCOMMITTEE BREAKOUT TIME

Subcommittees met after the adjournment of the meeting.

NEXT STEPS AND ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:01p.m.

UPCOMING COMMISSION MEETING DATE FOR 2025:

- May 13 (Elections)
 - June 10
 - August Retreat (TBD)
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