

ALEXANDRIA COMMISSION FOR WOMEN
MINUTES
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2024
CITY HALL, RM. 2000
7 PM

ATTENDANCE: Kendra Green; T. Nicole Hutchinson; Elisabeth “PJ” Palmer Johnson; Kafi Joseph; Matthew Worner; Lexi White; Shelly Brown; Anuja Miner

VIRTUAL: Jennifer “Jenn” Stowe; Emily Eckert; Jennifer Wetmore and Yvette Jiang

ABSENT:

Maxanne “Maxie” Witkin
Rachel Brill-Meckler

STAFF:

Debra Evans
LaTanya Chinagorom

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC:

None.

WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

GUEST SPEAKER: NATALIE TALIS ALEXANDRIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Ms. Talis, Population Health Manager, presented on the 2024 Alexandria Community Health Assessment. This assessment is for everyone to participate in to include residents, employees and those who play in the City of Alexandria. This assessment is performed once every five years. The Health Department wants to have new [Community Health Improvement Plan](#) (CHIP) by 2026. The last time the community chose their top three topics, which were poverty, housing and mental health. October 1 is the kickoff, 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. at Patrick Henry Recreation Center, where they will have child minding, interpretation, and free dinner. The Department also has WhatsApp groups to provide support to community partners. They work with the African Community Together as well. **Action Item: Commissioners were asked to take the survey, participate in the walk and talks, the October 1st kickoff meeting by registering [online](#) and sign up to join their email list.**

SEPTEMBER ANNUAL REPORT NEXT STEPS

The annual report is due to Chair White by Friday, September 20, 2024. The Commission put together a draft of the annual report. The final report is due to the City by Monday, September

30. Action Item: The Commission's Executive Board, Commissioners Miner and Brown as well as the subcommittee chairs were requested to review the report by September 22.

50TH ANNIVERSARY HOUSE-KEEPING AND REMAINING NEEDS

The Vola Lawson Lobby is reserved from 5 p.m. – 7 p.m. with 34 RSVPs. Commissioner Worner shared the information with Councilman Chapman who will share in social media and Mayor Wilson is committed to sharing the information as well. Councilwoman Sarah Bagley has confirmed attendance. Some Commissioners will be there at 4 p.m. to assist with set up.

Giveaways can be given only if the items are donated. Branding was discussed; it was determined that the Commission cannot have separate branding. A poet laureate will be there. Afterward, there will be the proclamation reading at the City Council meeting. Vice Mayor Jackson may attend. Commissioner Brown will emcee if Past Chair, Julie Harbour, cannot.

Action Items: Commissioners were asked to share the information.

Lapel pins will be available for Commissioners (Debra Evans).

Commissioners were asked to send a donation list to Ms. Evans; she will forward to the City Attorney.

Commissioner Stowe will pick up flowers.

Chair White will provide a run of show.

The Executive Committee will meet to further discuss planning, September 19, 12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m..

Commissioner Stowe or Commissioner Miner will reach out to Past Chair Ms. Harbour.

REVISITING COMMITTEE STRUCTURE & NEXT STEPS COMING OUT OF RETREAT

During the retreat discussions included re-orienting the subcommittee structure of the Commission by moving to a function-based model versus an issue-specific model.

Subcommittees that came up were as follows:

- Community Outreach and Engagement (Commissioner Worner / Commissioner Jones)
- Advocacy and City Council Relations (Commissioner Eckert is interested in leading this subcommittee)
- Events (Commissioner Green)
- Membership and Recruitment w/volunteer element (Commissioner Kafi)

A calendar of events that has key events of the year listed were hyperlinked in the agenda; the link disengaged upon emailing to the Commission. The retreat facilitator, Jessy Cuddy's notes were incorporated in the notes from the retreat and distributed on the day of the September 10th Commission meeting along with the agenda. **Action Item: The Commission will revisit the Calendar at the October 8, 2024, virtual meeting. During the October meeting they will discuss next steps.**

LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

The Commission must submit legislative priorities. Deputy City Manager, Alethea Predoux, is the new point of contact for these priorities. Commissioner White asked the former Exec Board for a copy of what was submitted in 2023. There are two topics that will be discussed:

1) Reproductive Freedom, 2) Contraceptive Equity Act. She also reached out to Birth in Color, a partner of the Commission. Birth in Color will champion policy priorities to include reproductive health, rights and justice, and the inclusive requiring license facilities to allow for every birthing person to have a client identified support person and or doula to support them in the birth room or operating room, in addition to a partner or spouse. They will also cover access for incarcerated people to childbirth, preparation, lactation, information, and support as well as menstrual health products, and providing community-based organizations working to improve maternal health outcomes. **Action Item: Provide priorities that the Commission wants to put up and will be put in a SurveyMonkey for the Commission to rank. Commissioner Jones will create the survey. The deadline is September 20, 2024, for the Commission. The deadline to provide the priorities to Ms. Predoux is October 2nd.**

REVIEW CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

The Commission reviewed the shared calendar. Updates were made.

Added items for October. Added items for National Hispanic American Heritage Month. Some Commissioners volunteered to attend some community events.

REPORT OUTS FROM SUBCOMMITTEES & COMMISSION LIAISONS

All were asked to send their subcommittee and liaison report outs to Chair White via email and they will be incorporated into the September 2024 minutes.

NEXT STEPS AND ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:03 p.m.
