

ALEXANDRIA COMMISSION FOR WOMEN

MINUTES

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2025

301 KING ST., RM. 2000

7 PM

ATTENDANCE: Maxanne Witkin; T. Nicole Hutchinson; Lexi White; Kendra Green; Krystle Bransky; Allison Heiser, Yvette Jiang; Jennifer Beatty; Kafi Joseph; Eva Bastianon; Vanita Datta, and Hope Nelson

VIRTUAL: Elisabeth Palmer Johnson and Rev. Dr. Shelley Brown

ABSENT: Nichelle Johnson Billups

STAFF:

Debra Evans

LaTanya Chinagorom

WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER

Chair White welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES - Wendy Ginsberg, City of Alexandria, Legislative Director

Ms. Ginsberg provided information on legislative proposals that guide the local priorities through legislature. October 3rd – The Boards and Commissions provide their priorities to City Council. **Action Item: All were asked to provide 3 to 5 priorities to Chair White by October 2nd. She will submit them to Ms. Ginsberg.**

COMMISSION COMPLIANCE INFORMATION - Keia Waters, City of Alexandria, Deputy City Clerk and Clerk of City Council

Ms. Waters provided instructions to the Commission on events, meetings, attendances.

Ensure all meetings and events are posted on the City event calendar where there will be three or more members in attendance. **Action Item: Ms. Waters will provide information to the Commission on a program called File Share where announcements can be posted (it will become a record) but not commented on.**

Action Item: It was suggested to set up a separate email address for Commissioners using their name and the Commission's acronym. All were asked to email Ms. Waters with new email addresses.

Action Item: Ms. Waters will send answers to compliance questions, and she will provide information on File Share.

RETREAT RECAP – Action Item: All were asked to reference the slide deck with highlights from the retreat. Some recap items are as follows:

- Commissioners discussed wanting to host a collaborative event across their subcommittees from 2025 – 2026.
- March 2026: Discussed targeting March Women's History Month for that signature event.
 - Would like the event to double as the Report release (if it is ready).
- The Commission would like to identify a new commission to liaise with amidst the sunsetting of the HIV Commission.
- The Commission is near the conclusion of their discovery phase and will be moving forward to the next phase of their project.

EBOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The Annual Report is due October 3rd
- Legislative Priorities are due October 2nd
 - Last year there was an opt-out model

The Commission decided to wait before voting on the legislative priorities and it will be presented to the group with an opt-out option. Chair White motioned that the Commission would retrieve any additional suggestions ahead of the Human Rights Commission's next meeting so that their priorities list will be represented there as well. All were in favor.

- There are three core priority buckets:
 - Reproductive health rights and justice.
 - Survivor support
 - Affordable housing and transportation.
- Walk through of the Calendar

SUBCOMMITTEE BREAK OUT SESSION

The Subcommittee breakout session took place from 8:10 p.m. – 8:40 p.m.

BREAKOUT SESSION REPORT OUTS AND REVIEW DISCOVERY PLAN

Volunteer/Membership Engagement (recruitment needs) - Commissioner Joseph will create a plan with the understanding that the Executive Board Committee will assist as they are able.

Advocacy Subcommittee: Outreach to neighboring commissions in the area were discussed as part of the legislative priorities for the year. The subcommittee reached out to Fairfax City, Arlington and Loudon Counties. They also discussed a process for monitoring City Council agendas. The subcommittee also discussed next steps for their health pillar. Will translate the discovery to be in a dashboard format that combines data and narrative. The dashboard will be used as a model for other pillars.

Community Outreach & Events Subcommittee: Commissioners Beatty and Bastianon joined this subcommittee. In December 2025, they will adopt-a-family as they did last year as well as support the Domestic Violence Children's Holiday Party. **Action Item: Second Vice Chair Heiser will review the calendar to determine the next outreach and will check with the Carpenter's Shelter Henry St. location for a list of specific needs that the shelter has.**

Action Item: Miss Moxie Moonshop is interested in providing social media postings and events for the Commission. A women's health roundtable event will be discussed for February 2025.

Action Item: Kirsten Sievers, from the Opiate Working Group, will be a speaker during the October 2025 Commission meeting.

Action Item: A one-pager will be sent to Debra Evans for teen organizations and for distribution at the farmer's market. The information will be on the Sexual Assault Volunteer Alexandria page.

Debra Evans is still awaiting Volunteer Alexandria's approval.

The Safety pillar has information missing. December 31st for the clean up of Discovery information. January and February 2026 will be the months of review. March is Women's History Month (the subcommittee will do a soft launch) and will have a full release in May 2026.

Commission on Aging – No report.

Human Rights Commission – The Human Rights Commission did not meet in August 2025. They provided community outreach and tabled at the Black Family Reunion. The EEOC is one of their partners and they will work with them in Falls Church, VA. Some activity dates where the Human Rights Commission will be tabling are as follows:

- October 18th - DASH Block Party
- October 4th - Hispanic Heritage Festival
- October 12th - 5th Annual Ethiopian Fall Festival

Action Item: The Commission was encouraged to consider tabling there in the future.

Their next meeting is September 16th where there will be two guest speakers: Kevin Harris from AHA and the other guest speaker to be announced. There will also be a speaker from Tenants and Landlords.

Action Item: It was recommended that someone from the Affordable Housing Subcommittee attend.

Chair White reached out to City Council Members on the fact that the Commission will come out with their discovery phase of the project. A spreadsheet was created to reinforce the liaisons, identify gaps and do another call for liaison volunteers soon. **Action Item: Commissioners will reach out to City Council.**

Upcoming Awareness Months:

- October – Domestic Violence Awareness Month & Breast Cancer Awareness Month
- October – Silent Witness Candlelight Vigil
- October 23 – Purple Out Day in support of Domestic Violence Awareness Month
- December – Children's Holiday Party (date TBD)

NEXT STEPS AND ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

UPCOMING COMMISSION MEETING DATES FOR 2025:

- October 14, All Virtual
 - November 11, Veteran's Day Holiday
 - December 9, Location TBD
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