

# **ALEXANDRIA COMMISSION FOR WOMEN**

## **MINUTES**

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2025**

**301 KING STREET**

**RM. 2000**

**7 PM**

**ATTENDANCE:** Jennifer Beatty; Yvette Jiang; Vanita Datta; Elisabeth Palmer Johnson; Shelley Brown; Annette Maldonado; Caroline Schofield, and Giovanna Rogow; Eva Bastianon (virtual); Hope Nelson (virtual); T. Nicole Hutchinson (virtual) and Kafi Joseph (virtual)

**ABSENT:** Krystle Bransky, Necola Shaw, and Nichelle Johnson Billups

### **STAFF:**

Debra Evans

LaTanya Chinagorom

### **MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

Kate Killingsworth

### **WELCOME NEW COMMISSIONERS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

First Vice Chair Jiang welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 7:19 p.m. to include welcoming the Commissioner's newest member Giovanna Rogow.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There were no public comments.

### **APPROVAL OF THE NOVEMBER 2025 MINUTES**

The November 2025 meeting minutes were approved as presented. The topic on the Fairfax Commission for Women Biannual Report that wasn't noted in the November minutes was discussed in the December 2025 meeting and will be documented in the minutes.

### **ELECTION**

Commissioner Palmer Johnson, reported that there were two nominations for one of the positions on the Executive Board (for Chair) who were:

- Eva Bastianon
- Annette Maldonado

Both candidates were given the floor to provide a three-minute speech. The Second Vice Chair position was unopposed and the candidate was Jeannifer Beatty. Voting on the First Vice Chair position was not required due to it being one candidate.

Debra Evans assisted Commissioner Palmer Johnson with tallying the vote.

New Commissioners, once elected to the position, are eligible to vote. Thus, Commissioner Rogow voted. Ms. Evans announced the results of the ballot, which was Eva Bastianon for Chair. Commissioner Beatty is Second Vice Chair.

It was noted if anyone has a desire to serve in the Executive Board Committee (Chair, First Vice Chair or Second Vice Chair) that no one can dictate what position or what role they may or may not want to serve in.

### **ONBOARDING REFRESHER**

Commissioner Joseph sent a menti.com code for all to go to test the knowledge of the Commission for Women Essentials. This was the Commission's first "test your knowledge" quiz. They will have other quizzes in the future.

### **OTHER TOPICS TO DISCUSS**

*Scottish Walk* – Participation was successful. The Commission would like to do the walk next year. Commissioner Palmer Johnson mentioned there are two more parades the Commission can participate in. **Action Item: Second Vice Chair Beatty will send QR code and reach out to each person by December 10<sup>th</sup>.**

*Social Media Transition Updates* – Commissioner Maldonado presented on social media. She posted on the following topics:

- Scottish parade
- One Story
- Veteran's Day post
- Thanksgiving

Commissioner Datta mentioned having a feature on the Volunteer Alexandria Potomac Yards location and suggested tagging challenges as well. It was suggested by Commissioner Rogow to ask each commissioner three questions for the features on them. **Action Item: All were encouraged to send their positive pictures from the community to Commissioner Maldonado. Action Item: Commissioner Maldonado will feature all the commissioners. She also asked if commissioners could provide names of organizations that help women where people can donate and outreach pics taken from within the community. She would like to post two or three times per week and will schedule to meet with each commissioner.**

Commissioner Joseph suggested that the Commission could get a waiver to be able to post pics and tag youth in the organization she works with. A permission slip from the parents will be needed as well. **Action Item: Ms. Evans will see if the City waiver applies to the Commission.**

*Health Coalition Events* – Commissioner Maldonado reported on the visit to the Coalition event for the Landmark Neighborhood to discuss the Community Health Assessment of communities in Alexandria to determine what they will include in the five-year community health plan. The Economic Development Office was there and will provide a small business seminar. The event was attended by Commissioner Maldonado and Commissioner Bastianon.

Congressman Don Byers' Annual Women's Conference, *The Ripple Effects of Resilience*, Thursday, January 15<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m., at George Washington University. The event is free to the public; attendees must register online. **Action Item: Commissioners Palmer Johnson, Datta, Joseph, and Chair Bastianon are interested. Commissioners were asked to register on their own availability and will gather on the day of the event. Action Item: First Vice Chair Jiang will circulate.**

*Fairfax CFW Biannual Report* – Commissioner Datta recently inherited the advocacy group. She attended part of the meeting. On March 27<sup>th</sup>, at the Riverview in Lorton, VA, a meeting breakfast will take place, under the Women's History Month theme, which is *Leading the Change, Women Shaping a Sustainable Future*. This year, they would like the Commission to look at the issue of resilience and sustainment. **Action Item: Commissioner Datta will circulate the information on this event.**

*November Boards and Commissions Chairs Meeting* - First Vice Chair Jiang attended the boards and commissions meeting, which is open quarterly. The different chairs would like standardized ways of reaching out to City Council and how they will keep Council aware of events and the budget. It was suggested to pitch the status of women report. Commission liaisons that report from one commission to another commission, must apply twice with Council. **Action Item: First Vice Chair Jiang encouraged commissioners to join one of the Boards and Commissions meetings.**

*Carpenter's Shelter Alternative Dates* – Chair Bastianon created a doodle poll subscription. The locations have different requirements in serving dinner. Some you must purchase catered food and then serve. Other locations allow you to bring the food, cook, and serve. Carpenter's Shelter locations are: 2355 Mill Rd. and 930 N. Henry St. **Action Item: Chair Bastianon will send another survey to Commissioners for new dates to Ms. Evans first.**

*Website Bio* – **Action Item: All Commissioners were asked to submit their bio to Ms. Chinagorom who will post it on the Commission's website. Email LaTanya.Chinagorom@alexandriava.gov.**

*Do we need to revisit bylaws?* – Commissioner Palmer Johnson asked the City Clerk about the bylaws and suggested that they be reviewed. The last review was in 2018. In 2021 it was updated to change pronouns. The Commission previously had a committee that presented changes and the Commission voted on them. **Action Item: The Bylaw Subcommittee, Commissioners Joseph and Palmer Johnson, will review the language in the bylaws and revisit the topic in January 2026.**

*Councilmember Pairing* – The following Commissioners are paired with City Councilmembers: Commissioner Palmer Johnson is paired with Councilmembers Sarah Bagley and Kirk McPike. First Vice Chair Jiang is paired with Mayor Alyia Gaskins. Commissioner Annette will pair with Councilman Chapman. Commissioner Hutchinson is paired with Councilmember Jacinta Green.

## **SUBCOMMITTEE ASSIGNMENT**

*Subcommittee* - The Commission has a Google Sheet that outlines the commission, rosters, and the subcommittees that they belong. Commissioners were asked who was interested in serving as City Council member liaisons.

## **SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT OUT**

**Action Item: Subcommittees will send their reports to Ms. Chinagorom.**

## **OPEN FORUM**

Advocacy Subcommittee – Kay – Senator Warren’s conference on the 21<sup>st</sup> of Nov.

## **NEXT MEETING**

Commissioner Maldonado moved for a virtual meeting in January 2026. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Joseph. All were in favor. Non opposed. The meeting scheduled for January 13, 2026, will be virtual. All were advised that all non-virtual meetings beginning January 2026 will meet at 4850 Mark Center Drive, while City Hall is being renovated.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 8:59pm