



January 11, 2022 Meeting Minutes (via Webex)

Members in Attendance:

Rhonda Jones, Chair
Jessica Epps, Vice Chair
Pam Guzzone, Secretary
Mae Beale
Farida Guzdar
Maxine Kellman-Allen
Jessica Nichols
Diane Paulus
Elizabeth Oyebode
Sherine Hargrove
Phyllis Zolotorow

Members Absent:

Kashonna Holland

Staff Present:

Stephanie Adibe, Executive Secretary

Call to Order

With a quorum present, the Howard County Commission for Women meeting was called to order at 6:05 pm. The Chair requested shifts in the agenda to include addressing the upcoming Student Panel and the So She Did campaign at the start of the meeting. This was agreeable to all.

Approval of November Minutes

Motion to approve the November minutes was made by Phyllis, seconded by Mae. Motion approved.

Upcoming Commission Events

- Student Panel: The student panel is currently scheduled for January 31, 2022, and is entitled Being Successful: Navigating Covid. We have 4 confirmed panelists with the possibility of 2 additional young women joining the panel. A draft flyer has been prepared and forward to the County for review and finalization by the end of the week.
Mae took the action to meet with the panelist and set up a 'dry run' so that everyone would be clear about how the program would proceed, timing, etc.
- So She Did Campaign and So She Did Too Campaign: The campaigns will run simultaneously this year. A timeline for the campaign was developed to include the following steps:
 - Flyer and nomination forms to be developed/coordinated thru Rhonda and forwarded to Stephanie – target date of 1/14/22

- Flyer fully vetted and ready for social media distribution by 2/4/22
- Nomination window will run from 2/7/22 thru 2/18/22
- Week of Feb 21 decisions will be made of women and young women to feature first week of March, with new honorees posted each week throughout March (Women's History Month)
- Video of honorees targeted for week of 3/28

There was also discussion on recognition of honorees. We will give honorees a notebook which we already have on hand. If there are a high number of honorees, the Commission will assist Stephanie with the short blurbs created for individual social media posts and the final video will be more of a montage of all winners rather than the short, taped interviews used last year. We chose not to set a cap on the number of honorees selected.

Chair Report

- Since we had covered a couple of the big issues, Rhonda shared New Year's greetings and offered an opportunity for Commission members to share any news of interest with the group.

Vice Chair Report

- Jessica E shared that the Human Trafficking Prevention Council will meet within the next few weeks, so she had no update from that group, but expects to have one for our next meeting.

Executive Secretary's Report

- Stephanie shared that she and the members of her office have been busy supporting the community with Covid related activities including distribution of at-home testing kits and getting those kits to communities or organizations that may have difficulty accessing them (such as Grassroots)

Committee/Teams Status Reports

- Outreach: Mae shared that the Outreach committee will be busy with preparations for the Student Panel at the end of January
- Partnering & Sharing Resources: Jessica E. shared that the team would be meeting directly after the Commission meeting
- COVID Response: Jessica N. has a meeting scheduled for the team
- Policy/Legislation/Advocacy: Rhonda and Pam shared the legislative priorities of MLAW (Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women) with the suggestion that some of those priorities could be ones that the Commission shares with the County Executive as ones we believe the County should be supportive of during the 2022 General Assembly.
 - The overall process for developing a letter to the County Executive was discussed and planned
 - We felt we should look for bills that support women and which strategically align with the County's goals
 - Due to the nature of the General Assembly's timeframes, our time line is tight:
 - By 1/19/22: Rhonda will send survey to Commission to gauge which bills people want to support

- By 1/22/22 members of the Team will meet to determine bill selections
- By 1/28/22 draft letter will be sent to Commission for approval and forwarded to Stephanie and Jackie Scott for review
- Target 2/4 for letter to be sent to County Executive

New Business/Old Business

- The chair requested input on whether or not the Commission should have a brief check-in meeting in early Feb. to ensure that plans for the So She Did campaigns were moving along as planned. There was agreement on doing that – check-in tentatively planned for Feb.8

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 7:20 pm. (motion to adjourn from Diane, seconded by Maxine)

Next full Commission meeting scheduled for March 8 at 6:00 pm

Submitted by Pam Guzzone