



## Frederick County Commission For Women

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## Frederick County Commission for Women: Public Meeting

Tuesday, January 10, 2023

7:00pm

Webex Virtual Meeting

### COMMISSIONERS

**Maura M. Page**  
*President*

**Kaitlin Moore**  
*Vice President*

**Cindy Shubin**  
*Recorder*

**Kate O'Leary**  
*Treasurer*

**Marguerite Vacca-Kaye**  
*At Large*

Melissa Atherholt  
Edwina Benites-LM  
Lakshmi Darbha  
Valerie Dougherty  
Lois Jarman  
Shauna Mulcahy

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### Roll Call of Commissioners and Introduction of Guests

President Maura Page called the meeting to order at 7:19 p.m. (delayed due to technical difficulties with the County's Webex), a quorum was present.

Commissioners Present: Maura Page, Cindy Shubin, Kate O'Leary, Eddie Benites-LM, Lakshmi Darbha, Valerie Dougherty, Lois Jarmin, Shauna Mulcahy, Marguerite Vacca-Kaye

Commissioners Absent: Melissa Atherholt, Kaitlin Moore

Several guests were present, including three current high school students as well as a potential future commissioner Sessa Jupudi introduced by Lakshmi towards the end of the open meeting. Sessa is passionate for advocating for women, and Maura added that Sessa has been active in our SheLEADS meetings.

Marguerite motioned to approve the minutes, Lakshmi seconded, Commission approved Minutes unanimously from December 2022 meeting.

### Speakers: SheLEADS Leadership Team

Students Olivia Yeatman and Aditi Senthilkumar spoke about their project – a Podcast on the SheLEADS YouTube Channel. The first episode will focus on the positive and negative of social media for teenagers. Future topics are to be decided. Eddie recommended that they give the podcast a name. They will let us know the name of the podcast once determined, as well as future speakers and topics.

### Committee Reports

#### A. Executive Committee

1. Treasurer's Report – the only activity in the past month was a \$21 phone bill.
2. Nominations for Member-at-Large vacancy on the Executive Committee: Nominees: Marguerite Vacca-Kaye and Edwina Benites-LM – discussion will be in Closed Session, with vote afterwards back in the open meeting. Cindy motioned to go into a closed session, Shauna seconded, vote was unanimous. Maura reopened the public meeting at 7:49pm. Cindy motioned to call for a vote on the At Large position, and

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Lois seconded the motion. The Commission voted by a poll, and Marguerite was voted as the new At Large.

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### B. Outreach – Chair, Lakshmi

#### 1. Events

Jan 16: Martin Luther King Jr. 2023 Annual Beloved Community Potluck. Sponsorship will be discussed under old business. Members are encouraged to attend the dinner. Cindy explained that the event this year requires pre-registration because spots are limited, and Lakshmi will send everyone the registration information.

Mar 2023: RAW event - Outreach committee plans to display a table highlighting CFW activities. All committees please submit a visual/poster for the same.

#### 2. Invited speakers 2023:

Council member Renee Knapp is assigned CFW. It would be great to invite her for Jan/Feb meeting. Tuesday evenings conflicts with Council meetings. The Commission is considering moving the timing for our meetings so that the meetings don't conflict with the County Council meetings, to be discussed in closed session.

### C. Voter Outreach and Education – Chair, Kate

1. No December meeting; next meeting Tues., 1/24/23 6 p.m. Zoom

### D. Raving About Women Annual Awards – Chair, Shauna

1. Commission to review nominations and vote for nominees during Closed Session at the end of this meeting. Shauna is confirming with our new County Executive Jessica Fitzwater that she will be our keynote speaker this year.

### E. Recruitment – Chair, Melissa

1. Commission reviewed the one-page draft recruitment document, with suggested revisions.

### F. SheLEADS – Chair, Maura. Report given above.

### G. Legislative Committee – Chair, Eddie

#### MLAW:

The CFW submitted our legislative priorities. MLAW's legislative priorities will be announced at their legislative briefing. "Project Folding Chair" was announced by the Women Legislators of MD to help the Moore-elect Administration meet his goal of 50% women staff. Eddie spoke with Delegate Guyton, and has received sponsorships from Senator Karen Lewis Young, Delegate Karen Simpson, and county and municipal sources. She's received several job offers as a result. This program appears very successful.

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### **Legislative Briefing:**

The Montgomery County Commission for Women's Legislative Briefing is on January 29th. The Commission purchased two tickets, Eddie and Lakshmi will attend.

### **Frederick County Chamber of Commerce Legislative Briefing:**

Eddie Benites-LM attended the Chamber of Commerce Legislative Briefing and spoke with many government officials including Delegate Pippy. Delegate Pippy would like to work together on strangulation legislation.

### **Meeting Date Change Request: Discussion**

We are not as effective as we could be with the County Council because our meetings and theirs coincide. The Commission should change its meeting date to a Monday, Wednesday, or Thursday at 7pm.

From Joyce: The Third Floor Meeting Room will work best for the Commission For Women to meet on the first, second, third, or fourth Thursdays of each month. Mondays could be considered, but only on the fourth Mondays.

### **County Executive Transition Team:**

County Executive Fitzwater announced transition team workgroups. Eddie sits on the Government Innovation workgroup. Former Commissioner Rosario Campos, and CFW speakers Ashley Waters and Brooke DeSantis, among many others, sit on transition workgroups.

### **County Executive Budget Listening Sessions**

County Executive Fitzwater is holding budget listening sessions throughout the County. Eddie attended the first session in Brunswick.

### **Frederick County Delegation Meetings**

The Frederick County delegation traditionally meets on Friday mornings. Eddie has been invited and plans to attend these meetings.

### **New Congress Earmarking Rules**

David Trone will hold a meeting providing oversight on the new congress' rules regarding earmarking for FY '24 requests. Eddie will attend. She has also reached out to the Majority regarding committee earmarking submittal requirements.

### **MACo Winter Conference:**

#### **Maryland Open Meetings Act:**

- Need to designate someone with MDOPA training- in the future, the bylaws could include this as an officer's tasking so that it doesn't need to be approved with membership changes.
- Need additional members trained as back up.
- Minutes should include:
  - Closed meeting statements (signed) should be included in the minutes
  - Screenshot of notice including the date

#### **Meetings with new County Council Members:**

Eddie met with several of the new County staff and council members. She invited

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Councilwoman Knapp to speak and will follow up once her liaison is confirmed and our meeting date changes, if it does.

**Need help:** The legislative committee needs help, especially on protection of women's reproductive rights.

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### Commission Business - Old Business

15 min

1. Discussion and vote on honorarium sponsorship for MLK Potluck Event. Lakshmi motioned to sponsor the MLK potluck with a \$100 sponsorship, and Marguerite seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
2. Women's Legislative Briefing participation, a virtual event on 1/29 – Eddie and Lakshmi will attend with our two Commission tickets.
3. Discussion and vote on moving the monthly meeting date. Eddie moved that the Commission meet the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month at 7pm, virtually monthly except for the quarterly in person meetings as per our annual plan, and Shauna seconded. Eddie moved to table this motion, Shauna seconded, motion passed unanimously. Eddie then moved that the Commission meet the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month at 7pm beginning in April, such meeting to be held virtually monthly except for the quarterly in person meetings as per our annual plan, and Shauna seconded. Motion passed 8-1.

However, after further discussion regarding a current Commissioner who is conflicted out every Thursday, Cindy moved that the Commission instead meet the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of each month at 7pm beginning in April, such meeting to be held virtually monthly except for the quarterly in person meetings as per our annual plan, and Marguerite seconded. Motion passed unanimously. ***Commission meetings will be on the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of each month at 7pm beginning in April.***

### IV. Commission Business - New Business

1. Discussion and Vote on Sponsorship for 2023 Women's Legislative Briefing on Sunday January 29<sup>th</sup> - Commission – in the past, we did a \$125 sponsorship in 12/19 for the January 2020 in person event. We did not sponsor the virtual events for 2021 or 2022 for this group. The legislative committee does not recommend sponsorship, but will reconsider if the event becomes an in-person event in future years.
2. 6-month review of Annual Meeting Initiative as part of the Annual Report – Commission reviewed the initiatives and committees from the July 2022 Annual Report, and all committees are on track for their initiatives this fiscal year. Cindy made a motion to formally approve the initiatives from the annual meeting in July 2022, Marguerite seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

### V. Commissioner and Guest Announcements

Maura noted that January 11<sup>th</sup> is Human Trafficking awareness day, wear blue.

### VI. Adjournment of Public Meeting and Call for Closed Session to begin

Next Public Meeting will be February 14, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. (Webex)

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**VII. Closed Session**

Eddie moved to move into closed session to review nominations for the RAW awards pursuant to General Provisions Ar. Sec 3-305(b) Section (2), to protect the privacy of reputation of individuals concerning a matter not related to public business. Cindy seconded; motion approved unanimously.

Maura adjourned the open meeting at 9:10pm, and Commission moved into closed session.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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