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Harford County Executive

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Director of Community Services

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**COMMISSION FOR WOMEN  
MINUTES**

Monday, February 27, 2023, 6:45 pm via Zoom

**Attendance:** Mary Hastler, Chair, Jill Hamilton, Vice Chair, Bonnie Miranda, Joy Christmas, Kristi Halford, Stacey Rebbert, Mary Teddy Wray, Robin Scott

**Staff:** Amber Shrodes, Meg Deem

**Absent:** Nancy Turner, Nafisabanu Multani, Roslyn Booker, Robin Tomechko, Cathy Ohler

**1. Call to Order**

- a. The meeting was called to order at 6:50pm by Chair Mary Hastler

**2. Introductions – Meg Deem**

- a. Mary Hastler introduced Meg Deem as the new Coordinator for the Commission

**3. Approval of minutes from January 27, 2023 was not possible because there was not a quorum**

**4. Chairwoman’s Report: Chair, Mary Hastler**

- a. Thank you to everyone who completed the Commission applications.
- b. Shared appreciation for entire commission and recognized members whose term is ending March 10<sup>th</sup>. Noted that unlike some others, the Women’s Commission worked throughout the Pandemic.
- c. Shared we would not be able to do officer elections because the Commission’s bylaws are not in agreement with the County Code. Shared that when the new appointees meet in March it should be a priority to address and correct the bylaws.
- d. Jill shared that she hoped the County Executive would consider someone who has already served on the Commission for the Chair position.
- e. Mary asked anyone interested in serving as Chair to email herself, Meg Deem, or Amber Shrodes.

**5. Coordinator’s Report: Coordinator Meg Deem**

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- a. Provided an update on the appointment process to the commission

**6. Committee updates:**

- A. Governance Committee – Chair Cathy Ohler – was not in attendance so there was not an update. However it was noted that fixing the bylaws so they are in accordance with the code should be a priority for this committee moving forward
- B. Membership Development Committee – Chair Joy Christmas
  - a. Mary thanked Joy for her service on the commission and shared that Joy did a wonderful job increasing the size and diversity of the Commission.
  - b. Joy thanked Mary and shared that she felt it was a team effort.
- C. Leading Women – Chair Mary Teddy Wray
  - a. Event date: March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023, from 5:30 pm – 7:00 p.m. at the Richlin Catering and Events Center
  - b. 15 girls submitted applications.
  - c. Scores are still needed from two members of the awards review committee.
  - d. There was only one 7<sup>th</sup> grade submission the group agreed they should be the award winner for that category.
  - e. Claudia Adams is the keynote speaker. Mary Teddy recommended she speak for 15 to 10 minutes. Mary Hastler suggested shortening her speech to 10 minutes.
  - f. Amber Shrodes shared that Vi Ripken's daughter, Elly and husband, and maybe her son Billy would be in attendance. She agreed to read Vi's Bio if the family did not want to.
  - g. Several members offered to come at 4pm to help set up.
  - h. Jill Hamilton and Amber Shrodes offered to help the nominees on and off the stage.
  - i. Joy Christmas offered to manage the reception desk again.
  - j. Amber Shrodes confirmed that Harford Cable Network would tape the ceremony.
  - k. Amber or Meg will send the winners names to Cathy Cogar at HCPL for the award checks.
- D. Community Conversations – Chair Roslyn Hannibal-Booker
  - a. We have not heard from Ms. Hannibal. Meg Deem is going to try to reach her using the information she included on her application to the Commission. The group agreed Community Conversations should be a priority for the next meeting, maybe schedule something for the fall.

- E. Legislation Committee Committee– Chair Kristi Halford
- a. Kristi Halford shared that the MD Women’s Hall of Fame ceremony would be virtual this year with a small reception for the winners at the Governor’s Mansion. She was not sure if anyone from Harford County was nominated. She will share the video when it is finished.
  - b. Kristi Halford shared the following bills supported by the Maryland Commission for Women: Love is No Defense ([HB 0004](#)) Reproductive Health Protection Act ([HB 0808](#)), Prevention of Forced Infant Separation Act ([HB 0523](#)), Declaration of Rights – Right to Reproductive Liberty ([HB 0705](#)), Safe Harbor for Sexually Exploited Youth ([HB 0297](#)), Child Care Scholarship Program ([HB 0495](#)), Access to Period Products ([HB 0087](#)), and Human Trafficking – Transportation ([HB 1053](#)).

## 7. Old Business

- a. N/A

## 8. New Business

- a. Women’s History Month – social media campaign. Stacey Rebbert asked if we still had a social media page since many of the Commission social media pages were taken down with visitors redirected to the County’s main page. Amber Shrodes and Meg Deem said they would confirm whether this was the case.
- b. Stacey Rebbert inquired who was vetting candidates for the Commission. Meg Deem responded that the County Executive’s team was managing the vetting but that she hoped they would also reach out to the Coordinator for guidance. Amber Shrodes shared it was her understanding that all board members with time left on their term would be returning and that any vacancies would be filled in March including the vacancies left by the five members that have termed out on March 10<sup>th</sup>.
- c. Mary Teddy Wray asked that it would be shared how winners for the Leading Women awards were selected. Mary Hastler shared that it was included in the script.

There was no motion to adjourn as there was not a quorum. Meeting ended at 7:45 p.m.