

ARLINGTON COUNTY COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN
MONTHLY MEETING

Date: Thursday March 14, 2024
Time: 7:00 pm
Virtual: Microsoft Teams

	In-Person	Virtual	Absent
<u>Commissioners</u>			
Caroline Romano, Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Marguerete Luter, Vice Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jeanine Finch	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Arbora Johnson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rachel Johnston	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Xenia Ruiz	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Julia Tanner	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Jordan Stevenson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Susan Strauss	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sasha Whitney	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Jade Garnett	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lorelle Langhorne	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Harjinder Gill	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Staff Coordinator</u>			
Courtney Palmer-Sales	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

MINUTES

1. Chair Updates, Chair Romano
 - Quorum
 - Try to be responsive to reply to Courtney's email
 - Responsibilities to reply to Courtney, show up to meetings, and assist with the events
 - Testimony & policy
 - Did not have testimony prepared ahead of time - this week was particularly challenging for Caroline and others, so think ahead for anyone who wants to be a Chair in the future; leadership roles need more dedication and reliability
 - Caroline wrote the testimony in the parking lot - pulled together information about period products, including about Virginia budget \$250,000 amendment for period products for schools; got stripped from the budget last-minute; spoke re: the cost of period products and menopause \$6-16/month is average spent by women and girls on period products. Recommended putting in libraries, all facilities, and recreation centers. Lynchburg City Schools says about \$4,000 per year, treat like restroom supplies (i.e. toilet paper). Coin-operated period products machine upstairs in the county building – absurd, no one has coins for parking much less period products. Chair Libby Garvey enthusiastically said, all County buildings should absolutely have period products.
 - Discussed necessity for public restrooms throughout Arlington
 - For next time: write ahead of time, look at budget summary pages, reach out to partner organizations and see what their priorities are
 - Take Back the Night (TBTN)
 - Last Thursday in April
 - Shirlington! Right outside the library. Permit acquired.
 - Will ask for support right after WOV for setup - **First week of April, before the April meeting.**
 - Hate crime update

- Thank you so much again to Courtney for handling the hate crime situation from the last meeting.
 - Afterwards — Board Chair Libby Garvey followed up re: the incident via phone call to Chair Romano. Very sympathetic and supportive. Also received a call from our new liaison, Maureen Coffey.
 - Courtney — this is a notorious, vile, hate crime group that has done the hate crime stuff for a few different public commission hearings. Courtney reported to her supervisor, eventually escalated it to the Chief of Police, etc.
 - Meeting with Board Liaison Maureen Coffey
 - Reported out about Women of Vision, 50th Anniversary.
 - Established connection and working with her as liaison.
2. Women of Vision Awards, Commissioner Finch, WOV Committee Chair
- Sponsorships: \$600, yay, but does not cover the cost of the
 - Process Pro
 - The Links
 - 72 registrations, about half usually show up -> 35 people may show up
 - Board doesn't give us a budget, we have to fundraise
 - \$8300 leftover from other events
 - Space \$500
 - Printing \$300
 - Catering \$3400
 - ***Everyone needs to do their part to get more sponsorships***
 - Will send signup sheet for setup and breakdown
 - Will send logistics email beforehand
 - Final details of cash bar and logistics forthcoming
 - 2-room setup
 - Group photos and potentially individual headshots
 - Commissioner Johnson and Vice Chair Luter - awardee wranglers
 - **Chair Romano: Pre-printed envelope to mail us a check -> for donations at the door -> put one in every program**
 - Vice Chair Luter: yay to the Selection Committee - Commissioners Johnson, Gill, Langhorne, Whitney, Ruiz, Johnston - about 18 nominations, which is on the higher end - everyone did a great job and participated a great deal
 - Winners
 - Nonprofit - Alyssa Gialamas
 - Government - Devanshi Patel
 - Business - Alejandra Underwood
 - Debrief - please make notes about what went well with WOV right away, and send after the event is over, be prepared to **debrief in May, not April** since Commissioner Finch will be gone in April.
 - If there is an urgent message, create a new email thread.
3. Other Announcements
- Commissioner Langhorne: from Krysta Jones, talking about a subcommittee on Black Women and Girls, making recommendations — Lorelle and Marguerete are going to talk about how to research
 - Vice Chair Luter: we don't necessarily have the time or capacity, will follow up
 - Chair Romano: we can discuss this in April
 - Will need to have quorum in April, to approve minutes and talk about subcommittee business
 - Will probably not have new initiatives until we can fully manage what we do have.
 - Commissioner Strauss: equity vs. equality big issue
 - Commissioner Strauss: AAUW panel on Women's History Month on Saturday

- Will be representing the Commission on the panel to talk about what we do - Women of Vision, Take Back the Night, County Fair, 50th Anniversary, etc.