



To be the visible resource for Harford County women in their endeavor for social, political and economic equality

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**COMMISSION FOR WOMEN
NOTES**

Monday, April 25, 2022, 6:45 pm (Webex)

Call to Order: Chair Mary Hastler

Commissioners: *Present:* Mary Hastler, Chair; Jill Hamilton, Vice Chair; Kristi Halford; Robin Tomechko; Cathy Ohler; Nancy Turner

Absent: Joy Christmas; Stacey Rebbert; Bonnie Miranda; Alison Imhoff; Mary Teddy Wray; Roslyn Hannibal-Booker.

Guests: Robbin Scott

Staff: Sylvia Bryant

The Commission did not have a quorum and the following conversation was held.

Approval of Minutes: The Commissioners were asked to review Minutes from the March 28, 2022, meeting and forward any changes to Ms. Bryant. The Minutes will be reviewed and approved at the May meeting.

Chairwoman's Report: Chair Mary Hastler welcomed the Commissioners to the meeting. On April 9, 2022, the Youth and Family Resource Festival was held and many thanks to everyone who stopped by. Fabulous day for families and friends. In addition, the Maryland Women's Commission published the report on the impact of Covid on Maryland Women. Each Commissioner received an electronic copy of the report. Many thanks to all for the wonderful young women celebration that was held on March 24th. We will work on establishing a new name for the awards.

Coordinator's Report: Ms. Bryant received invitation from American Association of University of Women for an Art Exhibition on May 3 at the Liriodendron. Tickets will be sent to the Commissioners who would like to attend. Harford County Planning and

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Zoning is working on Harford County's 250th Anniversary hosting special events such as visiting local historic sites, taking a selfie and posting on social networks. The goal is to promote the diverse and wonderful historic features of the county during the 250th celebration. The Commission received a lovely thank you note from Cathy Ohler. Project Connect is Thursday, April 28th, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., at the Edgewood EPICNETER. Contact Amy Novak, United Way, if you would like to volunteer.

Committees Updates

- 1. Governance Committee** – Chair Cathy Ohler – The Commission is reviewing the current Bylaws for revisions. Some of the recommendations may require the County Code and/or the County Charter to be updated and that takes time. Items on the list to be added include virtual meetings and high school student representative. Currently, the County Code requires commissioners to be registered voters. Commission meetings are open to the public and perhaps students would be able to attend and participate in the discussions.
- 2. Membership Development Committee** – Chair Joy Christmas – Welcome to Robbin Scott who is a guest this evening and interested in joining the Commission.
- 3. Community Conversations** – Topics to be addressed:
 - a. Financial Literacy for Women – Tuesday, April 26, 6:30 p.m. Zoom. This was postponed and will be rescheduled for the end of May. Ms. Hastler provided contact information for two potential speakers for conversation to Ms. Hannibal-Booker for follow-up.
 - b. Words that Hurt – Wednesday, September 21 (planned for in person with Zoom reserved as backup). Ms. Rebert provided several leads for potential speakers to Ms. Hannibal-Booker.
 - c. Human Trafficking – Body Parts – Date to be determined. Ms. Bryant noted that this will be a follow up conversation to one the Commission held a few years ago and focusing on body parts. Commissioner Imhoff noted that SARC has a staff member who provides training on human trafficking.
- 4. Harford County Women of the Future Awards** – Dr. Mary Teddy Wray, Chair – The Commissioners have suggested new names for the awards and Ms. Bryant will work with the legal department.
- 5. Maryland Commission for Women** – Ms. Halford provided an update. The Maryland Commission report on Covid and the Impact of Women was distributed to the Commissioners. Ms. Halford provided a list of bills that the Maryland Commission for Women supported that were passed this session. The Maryland Commission for Women will be hosting a virtual Roundtable for Commissions for Women on May 19, 2022, 6:00pm. Additionally, the Maryland Commission for Women will be holding its planning session in June to outline priorities for the upcoming year.

Old Business: Ms. Miranda has distributed the Benchmarking Paper from 2020 along with a matrix to the Commission. Please review and begin thinking of priorities.

Next Meeting: Monday, May 23, 2022, 6:45pm via WebEx