

Baltimore City Women's Commission
Meeting Minutes
October 25, 2023

Approval of minutes from September 27, 2023

- Rachel Marquez motioned to approve
- Miriam Carrion seconded
- All were in favor

Staff Updates

- Civils Rights Week Planning continues, Commissioners are encouraged to attend events
- Staff and Commissioners met with the Women's Commission of Harford County
 - Their advice was to leverage the most active members who take the lead
- Staff met with Baltimore County Women's Commission
 - Focused on Legislative change, resource center for women's shelters and economic empowerment
 - Their advice was to collaborate more, and invent programs less.
 - They recently created a manual for returning citizens
- Jill will be creating a recap of all the meetings with other Women's Commissions and a shared resource folder
- Commissioners are interested in state-level collaboration with other WCs, want to discuss with MD State Commissions
- Staff will present a proposal for the Inform Women, Transform Lives grant in the November meeting
- Staff will also present the Letter of Support for the Equality Amendment at the next meeting

Subcommittee Updates

1. Referrals- First Meeting Pending
2. Amelioration- Meeting this Friday 10/27
3. Advise and Council- Met on Monday 10/23 and provided minutes, are conducting an email vote to elect a Chair.
4. Monitoring Board and Commissions – First Meeting Pending
5. Workforce monitoring- Meeting Thursday 10/26
6. Research and Education- 10/19 Chair elected- meeting on the second Tuesday of every month virtually next meeting 11/14 -Rotation of note taking- Smart goals: 1. Review the work of the prior committee 2. Gather and review existing research on barriers women have in Baltimore City., identify resources, develop areas of focus 3. Host a research fair with a focus on the areas of research.
7. Evaluating Policies and programs- Informal meeting last night 10/24 meetings will be held on Tuesdays. – Working on transparency and compliance, have several questions, where does this information exist. Looking into all the different City agencies. Are the looking at private grants as well?

*When questions come up as the committees meet, they should be sent to staff; staff will respond or find a subject matter person that can answer.

Gab will share the scheduling resource her subcommittee used to successfully schedule meetings.

Bylaws Discussion

Commissioners discussed edits to the bylaws submitted by the Law Department.

Only major change that required further discussion was the change from “women-identifying, non-binary and assigned female at birth individuals” to “women” in order to be consistent with the law.

Commissioners want to contact the LGBTQ commission- Ana would like to reach out and try to partner with them. Commission will invite again, in writing.

Gab would like more clarity on how we are moving forward to assure we are being more inclusive.

Language in the bylaws will not prevent Commissioners from being fully inclusive in their on-the-ground work.

Commissioners will need to decide between leaving the bylaws with the edits and moving forward, or holding off until law is changed.

Commissioners will vote on this via email and announce decision at next meeting.

Commissioners also will need to decide whether they want to update the law, which will fall into the purview of the advice and counsel subcommittee.

New Business

There was no new business.

Meeting was adjourned.