

Virginia Council on the Status of Women
Science Museum of Virginia 2500 West Broad Street, Richmond, VA 23220
Draft Minutes – April 5, 2012
10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

In attendance:

Leslie Anderson	Randy Davis
Dawn James	Laura Mandala
Theresa Preda	Tracy Key
Rita Surratt	Jeff Caruso
Camille Fleenor	

Staff: The Honorable Janet Polarek
Jennifer Aulgur
Emily Barrett

The meeting was called to order at 10:13 a.m. by Tracy Key, Chairwoman.

A motion was made by Rita Surratt and properly seconded by Dawn James to adopt the tentative meeting agenda. The motion carried. Tracy briefly welcomed the members and had the membership introduce themselves along with Council staff.

A motion was made by Dawn James and properly seconded by Theresa Preda to adopt the minutes of the December 1, 2011 meeting as distributed. The motion carried.

Secretary Polarek gave a legislative update. She noted that the legislation passed which changes the name of the Council as of July 1 along with some changes to the purpose of the Council. Jenni Aulgur will provide information on the legislation to the members. Secretary Polarek noted that Elizabeth Mancano would be speaking to us later on the FLITE initiative. She felt this may be a good mechanism for cooperation for the Council. She is interested to know in what areas the Council may want to partner with FLITE/First Lady. Tracy asked the Secretary for clarification about the subcommittees that were formed for the last two meetings. The Secretary noted that those were formed to help give direction to the Council particularly with so many new board members and that the Council was sort of starting on a clean slate. She noted it was up to the Council if they wanted to continue those subcommittees.

STEM Essay Contest Update

Tracy provided an update on fundraising. A total of \$10,500 had been raised which far exceeded the initial goal of between \$2,500 and \$5,000. Theresa Preda updated the Council on the essay contest. 172 essays were submitted which is fabulous for the first year. There were 5 total judges and the judging went smoothly minus one judge who did not respond. There were 8 essays with a total score of 100 which would need a second review. Camille Fleenor and Leslie Anderson commented on their experience in the judging process. Leslie suggested having an interview process or have the judges get together and review the 8 final essays. A motion was made by Rita Surratt and properly seconded by Jeff Caruso to have the judge's review and score

the final eight essays to determine the winner. There was a discussion on how many essays to award based on the funds raised. After the discussion there was a motion by Dawn James and properly seconded by Camille Fleenor to give the responsibility back to the judges subcommittee to determine based on the top essays how many scholarships to award and at what amount. The motion passed. Jenni Aulgur will send copies of essays electronically to Theresa for the final round of judging and will email the finalists to let them know of this new process; thanks to that suggestion by Jeff Caruso. Jenni Aulgur reminded members about the award breakfast at the Science Museum on May 16 and encouraged all members to attend. She will be emailing the members soon for to get a final number of COTSOW members who will be in attendance.

FLITE Presentation

Elizabeth Mancano with the Office of the First Lady gave a presentation on the First Lady's FLITE Initiative. The four "pillars" to FLITE are Women in Business; Economic Development; Preventative Health & Wellness; and Military Families. Elizabeth noted some ways the Council might be able to help are: help FLITE make sure they are not missing something in the Women In Business pillar; help notify the First Lady if there are important events in your area that she should be aware of; and volunteering to help service members.

The Council recessed for lunch and reconvened about 30 minutes later.

The Council discussed potential ways they could get involved with FLITE. The Council agreed it would be nice to align themselves with what the Governor and First Lady are doing; possibly focusing in on the Women in Business Pillar. Dawn James mentioned the idea of doing an award for businesses who do great things for women (pay/family friendly/etc.) and maybe have sub-categories that fit in with FLITE. Leslie Anderson noted with the Council's name change coming maybe the Council could develop a tag line and a way to align themselves with FLITE along with developing a limited number of ideas by category that fall in the public policy realm. Laura Mandala mentioned the Council has in the past done a letter to the Governor on issues important to women.

OLD BUSINESS

Theresa Preda mentioned the idea of having a Governor's Fellow to help the Council. Tracy asked about the report that Mais Aboussy was going to compile from the December meeting. Jenni Aulgur would be following up on that with the Secretary.

Laura Mandala noted the health subcommittee had the idea of doing the educational conferences at the universities. She wondered if that could fit into the FLITE initiative. The Council could have a "FLITE" team to look at tangible ways the Council could fit it in. The team can consist of Laura, Dawn (business), and Ruth Zajur (health). It was agreed that would be a good idea.

NEW BUSINESS

Jenni Aulgur mentioned the idea of changing the website over from DSS to the SOC since the Secretary's Office is now staffing the Council. More discussion on this at the June meeting. She also asked if there would be a council member that could volunteer to periodically

review the Leadership Resources for Virginia Women on the Council's website for any updates needed. No volunteers from that request.

The Council received a request from the League of Women Voters to be added to the online leadership resources listing. The Council unanimously passed a motion to add them to the list. Jeff Caruso noted the idea of having the leadership listing include a tagline and reference to the organization's mission too.

OVERVIEW FROM SCIENCE MUSEUM

Annie Magnant and Julia Blair-Spalding spoke to the Council about the Science Museum and their excitement about the partnership on the STEM Essay Contest. They discussed the May 16 breakfast and offered a tour of the museum for any Council member who was interested in doing so after the meeting concludes.

The next meeting is planned for June 7, 2012. A motion to adjourn passed after being made and properly seconded at 1:50 p.m.