

Virginia Council on Women

Draft Minutes
January 21, 2015
1:00 – 3:00 PM

The January 21 meeting of the Council on Women was held at the General Assembly Building (9th and Broad Streets, Richmond VA) and was called to order at 1:00 pm by Chair Tracy Key.

Prior to the start of the meeting, Council members gathered at noon for box lunches and to hear a legislative update from Anna James, the Governor's Policy Director. Anna's update and the Q&A focused the Governor's 10-point plan for "A Healthy Virginia" and healthcare related legislation.

Members present:

Tracy Key, Chair
Rita Surratt
Ruth Zajur
Jeff Caruso
Olivia Turner
Lashrecse Aird
Meta Braymer
Meredith Harbach
Sally Mullikin
Ann Harbour
Lis Bresee
Marcia Price
Susan Rowland

Members absent:

Carol Gibbons
Julie Coggsdale
Mais Abousy
Theresa Preda
Brook Tribble

Staff present:

Kelly Thomasson
Katherine Waddell

A motion was made by Meredith and seconded by Jeff to adopt the meeting agenda. The motion carried.

Kelly explained that Jeff requested a small amendment in the minutes of the October meeting to clarify a statement he made. A motion was made by Rita and seconded by Jeff to waive the reading and adopt the amended minutes of the October 15, 2014 meeting. The motion carried.

General Updates – Kelly Thomasson

- Kelly circulated a board roster to be marked with any necessary updates.

- Again asked that members submit their bios and a photo for the Council's website (so far only four members have submitted a bio – the website will be updated when we have one for everyone)
- Reminded members about the appointment process – anyone whose term is up in July and is interested in being reappointed should submit an application on the SOC website.

Old Business:

Women's Healthcare Initiative – Meredith Harbach

- Meredith gave an update from the subcommittee's meeting in January.
 - Brainstormed ways the Council could support the Governor's agenda and policies that are important to women.
 - After meeting with Women's Health Virginia and hearing about the challenges of their annual Wellness Day, the subcommittee tabled the idea to host a wellness day/walk this year. Would like to have some event in April in conjunction with Gov's office to promote Women & Girls' Wellness Month – perhaps a "day of service" with an organization that serves underserved women/families. Perhaps partner with the First Lady and do some work about hunger/access to healthy food.
 - Have identified which members of the subcommittee will focus on specific issues:
 - Susan – Women's health month event and proclamation
 - Sally – Medicaid expansion
 - Lashrecse – access to healthcare of underserved women
 - Meredith/Katherine – reproductive health and sexual assault on college campuses
 - Would like Council's opinion on writing a letter of support for certain policies being discussed by the General Assembly.
- Discussion:
 - Women and Girls Wellness Month should be their priority area for starters
 - Tracy thanked the subcommittee for their efforts to find meaningful engagement. Important that we build off the momentum that the subcommittee has created and talk about ideas to help them move forward.
 - Letter to the General Assembly
 - it was suggested by Ann, and seconded by Olivia, that it might be a good idea to target letter not on Medicaid expansion, but on some of the specific issues that are in the Governor's 10 point plan. GAP, Dental Benefits, etc. should be the focus.
 - Ann pointed out that even though GAP/mental health funding is growing in interest and bipartisanship, there will be some opposed. In the past Council has shied away from anything controversial. Not saying we shouldn't do it.
 - Meredith proposed that she draft a letter and circulate the letter to everyone on Council and have everyone respond if they are ok to sign/send.
 - Ann made a motion that we move forward with a letter to the GA for advocating for the GAP and dental coverage benefits that are in the Governor's plan. Meta seconded and the motion was agreed to unanimously.
 - Wellness Month event –

- Lis is very concerned about the Council doing two events in April. STEM contest is a big lift, though perhaps since we have so many interested new members it will work, but hesitant to do two things in the same month. Also a Saturday in spring is going to be impossible for her family.
- Discussion about news cycles, competing messages, timing, etc. Also discussed the idea of hosting multiple service events in different areas of the state so Council members could work in their own community and not travel to Richmond.
- Susan moved that the Council authorize the subcommittee to put together a Day of Service event in April. Lashrecse seconded and the motion carried.

STEM Subcommittee – Tracy Key and Kelly Thomasson

- The STEM contest has been announced and is receiving essay submissions. We are moving forward with a separate event (not the Science Museum’s Up & Atom breakfast) and will be working with the MathScience Innovation Center to manage our scholarship funds moving forward.
- Tracy would like to send a thank you letter to the Science Museum for their help with the event and fiduciary guidance.
- Discussion of proposed event details:
 - On Capitol Square, hopefully Governor’s Mansion, if not, the Capitol or Patrick Henry Building.
 - 10:30 – 11:30 am; girls can be in the gallery by 11:45.
 - Ann will help have the girls in the gallery to be recognized. Perhaps the Chair of Science technology committee could recognize them – or maybe a female legislator.
 - Council meeting will follow the reception, start at 12:30, hopefully a short agenda.
- Judging process
 - Theresa is away visiting family; Tracy recognized and thanked her for all of her hard work.
 - Teresa has gotten 8 judges so far. If anyone else wants to be judges need to contact Teresa.
 - Carol is going to help taking over the judges next year.
- Sponsorships –
 - Need everyone’s help raising money
 - Encourage sponsors to come to the reception.
 - Cia can help make a Google doc with all the sponsors so no one is overlapping efforts.
 - Need to revise the sponsorship levels to allow all sponsors to attend since we can accommodate more people than at the Up & Atom breakfast.

Women's Conferences – Lashrecse Aird

- Lashrecse has put together an updated list of women's conferences and website resources
 - only included annual conferences rather than one-time conferences.
 - had some difficulties ascertaining how the “resources” list was put together in the past. Some are political, some are very issue specific.
 - List will be posted on the Council's website. Need to add caveat to the resources list that this list is evolving and if you want to be added to the list to email the Council.
- Ann suggested the Council on Women should have a facebook page! Could help promote the resources and what we are doing.

New Business:

Election of Officers – Tracy Key

- Tracy offered that she feels we should have officers so that we can add more structure to the Council, and because it's too much work for the Chair to do alone.
- Consensus from the Council that we should have these three officers. Could potentially add others in the future. (The Chair serves at the pleasure of the Governor and is not elected by Council).
- Rough description of possible duties and responsibilities:
 - **Vice-Chair** – The Vice-Chair shall serve as Chair in the event the Chair is unable to attend Council meetings or functions, assist the Chair in identifying and appointing committees and committee chairs, serve as an ex officio member of some event and issues committees, and coordinate any Council awards or special recognitions.
 - **Secretary** – The Secretary shall prepare meeting agendas in consultation with the Chair and other officers, record minutes of Council meetings, present meeting minutes to the Chair for review and provide copies for members at Council meetings
 - **Treasurer** – The Treasurer shall prepare budgets for Council events and activities, prepare reports for events and activities after their conclusion, and report to the full Council on any monies allocated to the Council and collected from Council activities.
- Lis moved to accept nominees for these three roles. Lashrecse second and motion carried.
- Ruth nominated Ann for Vice-Chair; Katherine nominated Meta.
 - Susan moved nominations be closed. Katherine second and motion carried.
 - Meredith moved that we vote on paper ballots and Kelly will tally the votes.
 - Ann received 7 votes; Meta received 6 votes; Ann Harbour will be vice chair.
- Katherine nominated Susan for Secretary.
 - Cia moved nominations be closed. Meredith second and motion carried.
 - Susan will be Secretary
- Treasurer – Tracy reiterated this is not a heavy lift; just making sure someone is keeping a close eye on the books for the STEM scholarship contest; ideally someone that is not doing all the fundraising so we have another set of eyes.

- Susan nominated Lashrecse; Meredith seconded and motion carried.
- Lashrecse voted as treasurer (note – Lashrecse was out of the room during the nomination)
- All officers will serve for one year terms; elections will be held at the first meeting of the calendar year. Officers can serve subsequent terms.

Review of Meeting Dates – Kelly Thomasson

- Next meeting is Wednesday April 15 at 12:30pm, following the STEM Awards reception (Patrick Henry Building; room tbd).
- Previously meetings have been held in August in October because September was so hard to get a quorum.
- The summer/fall meetings will be held on Tuesday, August 11 and Tuesday, October 20, both from 1:00 – 3:00 pm with the option for lunch and a guest speaker before the meeting convenes.

Susan moved to adjourn the meeting and Meredith seconded.

Meeting adjourned at 3pm.