

## Virginia Council on Women Minutes of August 16, 2016 Meeting

Patrick Henry Office Building, Conference Room 3

Members Present: Meta Braymer (Chair), Hala Ayala (Vice Chair), Miriam Bender (Secretary), Amy Eckert, Erin Evans-Bedois, Carol Rick Gibbons, Meredith Harbach, Ikeita Cantu Hinojosa, Allison Lawrence Jones, Lori Merricks, Sally Mullikin, Devin Pugh-Thomas, Katy Sawyer, Lisa Speller-Davis, Michelle Strucke.

Staff Present: Traci DeShazar, Kelly Thomasson, Katharine Waddell,

Call to order. Chair Meta Braymer called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. She introduced the new members and the other members introduced themselves.

Agenda and Minutes: The members unanimously adopted the agenda following a motion by Carol Rick Gibbons, seconded by Meredith Harbach, and unanimously adopted the minutes of the April 20, 2016 meeting, with correction, following a motion by Lori Merricks, seconded by Allison Lawrence Jones.

Orientation: Meta Braymer reviewed the charge to the Council, its powers and duties; the Governor's 2014 letter and his request for a *Women's Healthcare Initiative* subcommittee; the composition of the Council; and the current three subcommittees. She asked the new members to indicate their interests in the committees.

Meredith Harbach discussed the Healthcare Initiative's day of service at Housing Families First during *Women & Girls' Wellness Month* and its focus on issues regarding women's health to raise the Council's awareness of legislative issues that the Council might want to address in letters to the General Assembly. Kelly Thomasson reminded the Council that advocacy by the Council must be approved by the Council members and that, as appointees of the Governor, the Council represents the Governor in public statements.

Carol Rick Gibbons described the STEM Scholarship Committee's efforts and distributed information about the STEM Scholarship's history, Committee plans and goals for 2016-17, sponsorship, and the arrangements with the Math and Science Innovation Center. Amy Eckert talked about the need to start sponsorship-building earlier and as a team effort. She asked members to send her contacts for potential sponsors. The Council discussed the need for marketing materials and using social media; the importance of coordination regarding soliciting sponsors for STEM scholarships and the Summit and to avoid having more than one person asking a potential sponsor for a donation.

Meta Braymer noted that the Council began planning the Governor's Women Summit in December 2015 and that the event will be held in the spring of 2017. The Summit is on the agenda later in the meeting.

Kelly Thomasson spoke of the statutory charge of the Council and the Council's web site and facebook page. She invited members to send content, articles of interest, and suggested changes for the web site. She discussed the FOIA and open meeting requirements, emphasizing that e-mails among more than two members constitute meetings and reminding members to send information for distribution to the Council to [women@governor.virginia.gov](mailto:women@governor.virginia.gov). The members viewed a video regarding requirements for meetings, communications and records. Traci DeShazar will send a link to the video.

Old Business. In light of the earlier discussion of the Healthcare Initiative and STEM, the Council did not discuss them further.

Governor's Women's Summit: Meta Braymer noted that the Summit will be on March 30, 2017 at the University of Richmond Jepson Center from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. The theme is *Engaging and*

*Empowering Women Across the Commonwealth.* The Governor will be the luncheon speaker. The plan is to have 150 attend, although the facility can hold about 190. Meta reviewed the proposed agenda and asked for the Council's input. Members asked about the desired audience and discussed how to attract a diverse group through invitations and publicity, including working and non-working women; whether to charge for the event; other women's conferences that might be useful models or have contact information for potential speakers (such as the US Summit on the State of Women at the White House) and having a "take away" in the way of some resource guide. The Council will wait to contact the White House Summit until further planning of the agenda. The group then discussed potential speakers.

### New Business

Subcommittee Membership. Meta Braymer asked members to sign up by August 31.

Goals, Ideas and Projects for 2016-17. The Council's October 25 meeting will be a "mini-retreat" and members will have assignments for the meeting: What must the Council accomplish this year? What do you want to see accomplished in the next 3 years? Meta will arrange for a catered dinner.

Council Timeline: Meta discussed the revised timeline for 2016-17 (in the meeting packet.)

Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation and Women's Monument; Miriam Bender delineated the Foundation's plans for the 2019 Commemoration of the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first representative legislative assembly in the New World, arrival of the first recorded Africans to English N. America, observance of the first official Thanksgiving, and the expanding impact of women on the Virginia Colony and the call for nominations and donations for the Women's Monument on the Capitol Grounds in Richmond. She distributed a form for nominations (copy attached), which is also available at [womensmonumentcom.virginia.gov](http://womensmonumentcom.virginia.gov).

### Announcements:

Members noted these September 24 events in Richmond: The Square Fair; Pridefest; Senator Warner's Virginia Women's Conference.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 2:40 p.m. following unanimous adoption of a motion to adjourn by Miriam Bender, seconded by Sally Mullikin.

Respectfully submitted,

Miriam A. Bender, Secretary