

Virginia Council on Women

Minutes of April 18, 2018 Meeting

Patrick Henry Building, Richmond, VA

Members Present: Meta Braymer (Chair), Devin Pugh-Thomas (Vice-Chair), Miriam Bender (Secretary), Amy Bridge, Ikeita Cantu Hinojosa, Caryn Foster Durham, Amy Eckert, Carol Rick Gibbons, Ashley Reynolds Markham, Lori Merricks, Susan Rowland, Katy Sawyer, Katie Tyson.

Staff Present: Kelly Thomasson, Traci DeShazor; student intern Corey Brooks Nolan.

Call to order

Chair Meta Braymer called the meeting to order at 12:35 p.m.

Agenda and Minutes

The agenda was adopted unanimously on a motion by Sue Rowland, seconded by Lori Merricks. The minutes of the January 25 meeting were adopted unanimously, with the correction of Amy Bridge's name, on a motion by Katie Sawyer, seconded by Carol Rick Gibbons.

Old Business

STEM Essay Contest. Carol Rick Gibbons and Amy Eckert thanked the Council for the funds raised, which allowed each winner to receive \$10,000. The Council agreed that the ceremony and comments by the Governor and First Lady were excellent, noting how the Governor talked to the students. Del. Hala Ayala, who is a former Council member, recognized the winners at the General Assembly after the ceremony.

Katie Sawyer inquired about the process for thanking donors. The Governor's office has issued a press release about the event which also thanked the sponsors and judges. Caryn Foster Durham suggested sending photos of the girls with the Governor to the donors. Traci, Amy and Carol will discuss the issue. Amy indicated that she plans to start seeking sponsors earlier next year. Traci noted that timeline worked well this year and the judges were responsive. She thanked Corey for her work and Meta thanked Devon Pugh-Thomas for developing the judging spread sheet.

Women & Girls' Wellness Month. Ikeita Cantu Hinojosa reported on the Council's event and proclamation signing at the MSIC on April 12, noting the Governor's engagement with the middle school girls; attendance by the First Lady, Sen. Jennifer McClellan, and several Council members; and the yoga session and interactive learning activity, in which the First Lady participated. Pictures are on the Council's facebook page and in an article in the Henrico Citizen. Meta thanked everyone who worked on the event. Ikeita noted that the Women's Healthcare Subcommittee would be meeting after the Council meeting.

New Business

The General Assembly. The Council received a report on the Governor's bills and the upcoming special session regarding the budget in which Medicaid expansion will be a focus.

Women's Mini-Summit. Lori Merricks discussed the Summit Subcommittee's plan for mini-summits in 2018, for easier logistics and sponsorship development than a statewide summit. The plan is for the first one to be a late-afternoon gathering, modeled on Danville's *We Lead* meeting, tentatively on May 23 or 24, in the Tidewater region. Possible locations are Christopher Newport University or Tidewater Community College. The Council discussed themes (leadership, wellness); potential keynote speakers, such as local legislators; local businesses and organizations to involve (former

STEM sponsors in the area, Newport News Shipbuilding, the local food bank, veterans groups and organizations serving families of active military. Lori asked the Council to send suggestions for speakers and possible partners to handle registration and refreshments. Meta noted that the sub-committee should receive suggestions for speakers, partners, and invitees by April 25 and questions for panels by the end of April. Traci will look at connections at Christopher Newport.

Jamestown Commemoration. Kelly Thomasson will ask someone on the commemoration committee to brief the Council on the plans and ways the two groups might work together before the monument dedication and a summit in October 2019.

Council Timeline. Meta reviewed the timeline and asked members to confirm that the second Thursday of the month would be preferred. She asked that the dates for the 2019 STEM contest and the fall mini-summit be confirmed by the August 9 meeting,

Announcements.

Amy Bridge distributed a report by the Institute for Women's Policy Research on the status of women in 2015.

Miriam Bender distributed brochures for the Women's Health Virginia annual conference on women's health, *She's Got Guts—The Microbiome, Food & Women's Wellness*, which will be in Charlottesville on Friday, June 8.

Meta Braymer announced that she is not seeking re-appointment and this meeting is her last one. She thanked the members who then thanked her. Kelly Thomasson presented her with a gift of the book *Changing History: Virginia Women Through Four Centuries*.

Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 1:40 p.m. on a motion by Ashley Reynolds Markham, seconded by Miriam Bender.

Respectfully submitted,

Miriam Bender, Secretary