

Virginia Council on Women Minutes of October 25, 2016 Meeting

4308 Monument Avenue, Richmond

Members Present: Meta Braymer (Chair), Hala Ayala (Vice Chair), Miriam Bender (Secretary), Amy Eckert, Meredith Harbach, Ikeita Cantu Hinojosa, Suzanne Jackson, Allison Lawrence Jones, Lori Merricks, Devin Pugh-Thomas, Katy Sawyer, Lisa Speller-Davis, Michelle Strucke, Rita Surratt.

Staff Present: Traci DeShazor, Katharine Waddell,

Call to order. Chair Meta Braymer called the meeting to order at 3:45 p.m.

Agenda and Minutes: The members unanimously adopted the agenda following a motion by Hala Ayala, seconded by Ikeita Cantu Hinojosa, and unanimously adopted the minutes of the August 16, 2016 meeting, following a motion by Michelle Strucke, seconded by Devin Pugh-Thomas.

Report on Board of Health Meeting. Katherine Waddell reported on the October 24 meeting of the Board of Health at which amendments to the Governor's amendments to the regulations regarding abortion clinics were approved 11-4.

Old Business

Women's Healthcare Subcommittee. Meredith Harbach noted that the subcommittee would start planning for Women & Girls' Wellness Month (April) before the Council's January meeting and invited Council members to reflect on activities might be worth pursuing. The subcommittee will also work with Katherine Waddell on issues regarding women's health in the General Assembly session and recommend letters that the Council consider writing regarding proposed legislation.

STEM Subcommittee. Amy Eckert distributed a packet regarding the STEM Scholarship contest. She indicated that the Council raised \$48000 of the \$50000 goal in 2016, approximately \$10000 more than in 2015. She challenged the Council to raise \$60000 this year. The contest will retain the 5 regions and award one scholarship per region. She indicated that outreach will start before the end of the year and asked members to review the list of potential sponsors to identify personal contacts. Amy plans to prepare a one-page promotional piece.

The Council discussed potential recognition of sponsors, including at the reception when awards are presented, in a press release, on the Council website. The award presentation will likely be similar to 2016, on the day of the General Assembly veto session, with a Council meeting in the afternoon.

Subcommittee Membership. Meta Braymer discussed the new membership, noting that each member is on one subcommittee but that members need to be involved with the work of all subcommittees, such as judging or finding judges and sponsors for the STEM contest.

New Business.

Summit 2017. Meta Braymer discussed plans for the March 30, 2017 Summit at the University of Richmond Jepson Center and distributed a revised agenda, noting changes made with input from Mimi Bender and Lori Merricks. The theme will be opportunities to be engaged and empowered to lead and will seek to engage women of different ages and in different sectors and with different backgrounds. Dorothy McAuliffe has indicated that she would like to moderate the morning session. The facility can hold 190 but the plan will be for 150 attendees. Traci DeShazor noted that registration will be open but that outreach will be targeted to local councils on women, young professionals' organizations, and health care advocates.

The Council discussed having a speaker (in the afternoon) on self-confidence, mindfulness, dealing with leadership in male-dominated areas, work-life balance, discrimination in the workplace, and networking and made suggestions of possible speakers. Traci DeShazor asked that members to send her suggestions of speakers for the panels (public and private sectors, at the state and local level.)

Council Process and Procedures. Meta Braymer discussed the procedure for the Council to send letters, noting that the members need to approve the Council's action and that letters be sent in the Council's name and not listing individual members who agree to the action. She noted that the question of how the Council can take action without a meeting has been submitted to the Attorney General's liaison, who is considering it.

Meta also suggested that the Council consider whether it should have partnerships with other entities and how that might work.

Goals, Ideas and Projects. Traci DeShazor distributed Meta's compilation of the members' suggestions for Council accomplishments this year and the next 3 years.

Council Timeline. Meta Braymer noted that the revised timeline for 2016-17 added the new STEM deadlines and meetings in 2017.

Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 4:50 p.m. following unanimous adoption of a motion to adjourn by Lori Merricks, seconded by Miriam Bender.

Respectfully submitted,

Miriam A. Bender, Secretary