

St. Mary's County Commission for Women
January 23, 2006
Meeting Minutes

Cynthia Brown, Community Services Liaison called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM in the carter building. The following members were present Norma Pipkin, Susan Wolfe, Katie Werner, Dora Hanna, Maureen Johnson, Andree Wells, Ceandra Scot, and our new member Marta Kelsey.

Status of the chair position

Cynthia announced that Jessica Kris has resigned form the Commission for women. Several options for filling the position from the vice chair position. The second was to identify Co chairs for the Commission and the final was to have rotating chairs.

Susan Wolfe, Vice Chair indicated she would not be able to fill the chair vacancy at this time. The issue will be tabled until next month. Susan reminded members if we are going to do something different from the officer structure we have identified in the bylaws that we need to make that change immediately before the bylaws are approved.

Budget Development

Cynthia Brown reported that we have spent \$ 172.00 of the \$900.00 budget that we were allotted. She indicated that due to time it takes to checks issued a firm commitment on how the money will be spent needs to be determined by March and requests for disbursements should follow in April.

At our next meeting Cynthia will report on the cost of the retreat held last year.

For each activity we begin, we need to establish objectives and expectations. At that point we will be better prepared to make decisions regarding the amount to budget.

Domestic Violence Task Force

The members are supposed to have a report complete and ready to report by February. The next meeting is Wednesday, January 25, 2006.

Women's History Month

Marta Kelsey and Maureen Johnson will meet and prepare an order of supplies that will be distributed during the month of March. Some of the items discussed were posters, bookmarks and buttons. Some of the suggested places for distribution were three local high schools, the public libraries, and the local community college. Susan Wolfe moved to allow the purchased of the materials to be used for Women's History Month recognition. The motion was amended in an amount not to exceed \$ 80.00. It was second and carried. Marta and Maureen will submit the order to Cynthia's office and Community Services staff will follow through with the placing the order and requesting the funds.

Women's Fair

Marta announced there will be a Women's Fair hosted by the Charles County Commission for women on March 4, 2006 at the Waldorf Jaycees. Maureen expressed an interest in attending Marta she would be representing at the fair.

Maureen will present a proposal at the February meeting outlining expected expenses if we decide to host a Women's Fair next year.

Brainstorming

A brainstorming session ensued on how we could reach women of St. Mary's and what the pressing issues were. Members agreed that our focus this year was still Domestic Violence and therefore, we should commit our resources to those issues. Some ideas were: Teddy bears for the police to distribute to the children during Domestic Violence calls.

Information items that would be placed in ladies restrooms that would have a tear off sheet on where to call if you needed assistance for Domestic Violence.

Another idea was perhaps we could purchase some items that would go in the area where they have the classes for new mothers at health Connections.

CFW website

Susan indicated there had once again been some problems with getting the website on the county site. Apparently, it was stated that the information had not been forwarded to the appropriate person. Susan said since she was told that she had sent the information two more times. Cynthia asked Susan to send the information to her and Susan agreed.

Community Business and Internship Survey

Ceandra passed out a survey she has developed and asked members to critique it and get back to her by February 5, 2006. She intends to have a maximum of 10 questions including on the survey. She has 10 companies that have expressed interest in having someone as an intern and those companies have agreed to pay a stipend.

Ceandra went on to say she would be inviting Ramona Smith, Guidance Counselor from Great Mills High to our next meeting to help us through this process. Susan indicated John Savage is interested from the economic development perspective and he would also like to hear more about what we hope to do with project. Susan will invite John to our next meeting.

It is important that all parties know we have the following goals for our project:

The students will be average in their academic achievement

Students will be introduced to a professional environment and given meaningful

Work and adequate coaching to succeed.

Students will be expected to demonstrate appropriate work ethic and commitment to the employer.

On February 6, 2006 at the 10 am Ceandra, Maureen, Dora, and Andree will meet to finalize the survey and more fully develop the timelines and application for internship.

Additional Business

Susan Wolfe Suggested we consider having a contest to develop a logo for the Commission for women. She will explore the possibility more fully and get back to us.

Katie Werner moved to approve the December minutes as written. The motion was seconded and carried

In order that we can finalize budget items and conduct the regular business the next meeting will begin at 5.00 PM on February 27, 2006 and the guest will be invited to join us at 6.00 PM.

Dora Hanna will bring refreshments. Cynthia will bring beverages.

The meeting adjourned at 7.00 PM

Minutes Prepared and submitted by Norma j. Pipkin