

St. Mary's County Commission for Women
February 27, 2006
Meeting Minutes

Susan Wolfe called the meeting to order at 5:18 p.m. in the Carter Building. The following members were present Norma Pipkin, Susan Wolfe, Katie Werner, Dora Hanna, Maureen Johnson, Andree Wells, Ceandra Scott, Marta Kelsey, Darlene Johnson and Pat Friend. Thank you to Dora Hanna for the nice dinner she prepared for the members.

CFW Website:

Susan stated she had spoken to Jennifer and there were some questions on a couple items that were submitted. Cynthia said she had delivered a hard copy of the website information. She thanked Andree for her daughter's offer to help with the website. Susan indicated there might still be a need for some assistance with graphics to compliment the text.

Women's Fair

Maureen has been in touch with the chair of Charles County CFW Women's Fair that will be held on Saturday, March 4, 2006. The purpose of the fair is to provide information to women and encourage women to pool resources and information to assist one another. Charles County is currently using a model that was developed by Montgomery County CFW. The Montgomery County CFW Women's Fair will be held April 1, 2006.

Maureen suggested that the commission consider hosting a Women's Fair in the fall of 2006. Marta will check into the availability of space at the Leonardtown Campus of CSM.

Domestic Violence Task Force

Maureen passed around a copy of the Domestic Violence Task Force report. She stated there were many good recommendations included.

Women's History Month

Susan stated the posters and some bookmarks were ordered. The theme for 2006 is "Women: Builders of Communities and Dreams." Susan shared information including the tri-fold brochure that is available on the web site of the National Women's History Project, www.nwhp.org. Susan also showed the sample of business cards that she had developed. It included the theme for the National Women's History Project. Cynthia reminded the commission members there are business cards available in the Community Service Office.

Budget Development

Chairpersons were asked about costs associated with the projects they were working on. Ceandra Scott indicated she would need \$250 - \$300 for the food during the interviewing process for the internship program.

Maureen Johnson stated Charles County CFW expected to make money from the Women's Fair.

Susan Wolfe said she has an appointment with Health Connections staff on Wednesday and she will send an email to all the members after that meeting.

Cynthia Brown said she had spoken to Maryland State Police Officer, Yolanda Stockton and they do need Teddy Bears to distribute to children when they go on calls. She was asked if they already had a source. Cynthia will look into that. Susan suggested a bow go around the Teddy Bears necks that would identify that it was donated by CFW. Maureen echoed the need to get our name and the work we do into public view.

Status of the Chair Position

Marta Kelsey and Susan Wolfe volunteered to co-chair the Commission for Women. They will take turns chairing the meetings.

Women's History Month Proclamation

Susan Wolfe offered to work on the proclamation for Women's History Month. Cynthia will get back to the members on when the Commissioners will present the proclamation.

Community Business and Internship Survey

Ceandra shared the result of the committee meeting that was held. The goal is to be ready to go by April 15, 2006. The final copy of the survey has been developed. An evaluation sheet for student to complete and a separate sheet for the employer to complete after the student is placed were also developed. Ceandra will send the information to all members by email. The proposed letter that will be sent to counselors was shared with Commission members. Ceandra went on to say she has firm commitments from five companies and each company has agreed to host two interns for a \$500.00 stipend.

The sub committee agreed to meet again on Tuesday March 7th at 10 a.m. Cynthia will get back to the committee members about the space availability.

Ceandra introduced Ramona Smith, Guidance Counselor from Great Mills High School. Ms. Smith shared with us some of the current internship and scholarship opportunities. She offered her assistance in helping the Commission for Women pilot the program through Great Mills High School. Ms. Smith feels certain she has ten students that would fit the profile members we have described.

Susan introduced John Savich, Director and Courtney Franklin, Business Development Specialist from the Department of Economic and Community Development. Mr. Savich shared insight into other community organizations and businesses that were developing innovative ways to reach potential employees and provide opportunities for young people to reach their potential. Ms. Franklin shared some of the activities of the Minority Business Council. Both were very encouraging of the efforts and willing to assist with coordination and collaboration with other organizations and businesses.

The group brainstormed some possible sources for additional funding: The Rotary Club, St. Mary's Optimist, Target, J.C. Penney's, Lion Club, The Elks, Business and Professional Women.

The next meeting will be March 20, 2006. The meeting adjourned at 6:50 p. m.

Minutes prepared and submitted by Norma Pipkin