

# Maryland Commission for Women

## Meeting Minutes

Saturday, November 14, 2015

3 p.m.

International Cultural Center 19650 Club House Road, Suite 205 Gaithersburg, MD

### Commissioners Attending:

Lee Bachu, Chair  
Wandra Ashley-Williams, Secretary  
Marianne Brackney  
Gloria Chang  
Patricia Cornish  
Lorna Forde  
Doris Ligon  
Marion Manski  
Carole Jaar Sepe  
Corinna Shen  
A. Diane Williams, Vice Chair

### Commissioners Absent:

Homayara Aziz  
Tammy Bresnahan  
Velvet Johnson  
Bonnie Nelson Luna  
Betsy Ramirez  
Anita Riley  
Yun Yang

### Staff Attending:

Judith Vaughan-Prather, Executive Director

### Guest:

Mi Young Pak, Prince George's County CFW

## I. Call to Order.....Lee Bachu, Chair

The meeting was called to order at 2:55 p.m. The Commissioners expressed their appreciation to the International Cultural Center for providing meeting space in the same facility as the MLAW Conference and the CFW Roundtable Meeting, both of which were held today, meaning that the Commissioners could attend those two events, and stay for the MCW meeting as well.

### A. Introduction of New Commissioners:

Chair Lee Bachu welcomed two of the three new commissioners recently appointed by Governor Larry Hogan: Corinna Yi-Yuan Kuo Shen and Marianne Hyang Nam Brackney. Both introduced themselves and noted their enthusiasm for the work of the MCW and their willingness to become involved in its projects immediately. A third newly appointed commissioner, Yun Jung Yang, was unable to attend today's events because of prior commitments, but has already volunteered to work on the Listening Tour initiative.

**B. Amend and Approve Minutes of September 18, 2015 MCW Meeting**

The minutes of the September meeting were approved at the October meeting, but on page 5, Section III. D., there were two blanks where the names of the commissioner making the motion and the commissioner seconding the motion were omitted. Those names (Marion Manski and Wandra Ashley-Williams, respectively) were identified. The corrected minutes were approved.

**C. Approval of Minutes of October 15, 2015 Meeting**

Chair Bachu noted that at its last meeting, the MCW decided to make the planning committees for the Women’s Hall of Fame and the Women of Tomorrow full committees of the MCW rather than subcommittees of the Education and Outreach Committee. She apologized to Commissioner Forde who chairs the Education and Outreach meeting and did not attend the October meeting for the Commission’s having made that decision in her absence.

The motion that was unanimously approved at the October meeting read:  
“The Listening Tour, the Hall of Fame and the Women of Tomorrow shall act as independent committees as of today, and the chairs of the Women of Tomorrow and the Hall of Fame will collaborate in planning the award/induction ceremony.”

Commissioner Forde noted that the motion was improper because that change would require a Bylaws change and that requires a 30-day notice.

Because the Commission does not have another meeting scheduled until January, Commissioner Williams, who chairs the Bylaws Review Committee, said that the committee will develop a written proposal for the Bylaws amendment as soon as possible and send it out via email to the Commission, providing 30 days notice before a vote will be taken via email. That vote will require ratification at the MCW’s next meeting on January 21, 2016. Only the Hall of Fame Committee and the Women of Tomorrow Committee are affected, as the Listening Tour planning committee is a new initiative, not a standing committee, and is not mentioned in the Bylaws.

Commissioner Sepe moved approval of the October minutes as submitted.  
Commissioner Ashley-Williams seconded the motion which passed with a majority vote.

**II. Chair’s Report: Roundtable Discussion/MLAW Conference..... Lee Bachu, Chair**

The MLAW Fall Conference held this morning was a success. Attendance was higher than usual – at about 140, compared to about 80 in previous years. The MLAW President attributes this to the partnership with the MCW and combining the CFW Roundtable Meeting with the MLAW Conference. The MCW asked the Friends of the MCW for \$1500 to support this combined conference/Roundtable Meeting, and to cover registration costs for 35 attendees. The Friends did not provide the funds, so the MCW paid \$1000 from its own very small budget, to provide a Platinum Sponsorship of the MLAW Conference, with a full-page ad in the program book and to cover the registration of 25 commissioners from the MCW and county Commissions for Women (CFWs).

The CFW Roundtable Meeting was attended by 30 individuals representing nine CFWs in Maryland (Anne Arundel County, Baltimore County, Calvert County, Charles County,

Frederick County, Garrett County, Montgomery County, Prince George’s County, and of course, Maryland).

The attendees enthusiastically embraced the proposed Listening Tour Initiative, presented by Commissioner Cornish, in which they were invited to partner with the MCW as public forums are held around the state. Commissioner Williams reviewed MCW’s current priorities and activities and invited the county CFWs to collaborate with the MCW on these issues. Commissioner Ashley-Williams presented a statistical overview of the status of women in Maryland. The attendees very much appreciated the opportunity to meet with representatives of other CFWs and to share projects, information, ideas and strategies. They were invited to send information about their upcoming events for posting on the MCW website calendar. The energy and commitment to continuing advocacy and strategic partnerships generated by this meeting made clear that it accomplished its goals. The Commissioners agreed to continue the co-location and coordination of the CFW Roundtable Conference with the MLAW Fall Conference in the future, if MLAW agrees.

**III. Committee Reports**

**A. Listening Tour.....Commissioner Cornish**

The Listening Tour initiative was “officially” launched today with the invitation to the county CFWs to partner with the MCW in holding public forums around the state. The Garrett County CFW and the Montgomery County CFW already volunteered to sponsor forums in their jurisdictions. Montgomery County is planning its own local listening tour with a public forum to be held in March 2016. MCW could partner with the MC CFW, but March may not be possible since the Hall of Fame and Women of Tomorrow award programs are scheduled then. A flier announcing the MCW listening tour initiative was developed and distributed at the CFW Roundtable Meeting earlier today.

**B. Hall of Fame and Women of Tomorrow.....Commissioners Williams and Ashley-Williams**

The planning committees for both the 2016 Maryland Women’s Hall of Fame and the 2016 Women of Tomorrow Awards have been very hard at work. The WOT nomination packet required much revision to make it clear and consistent with the criteria for selection. Both nomination packets were edited to make them as similar in format as possible, and to create forms that may be completed on line. The Calls for Nominations for both programs were posted on the MCW website on Thursday, November 12, and sent to the MCW email distribution list. The WOT call was also sent to the guidance counseling department for every jurisdiction in the state. An email distribution list of private schools is being developed to send the announcement to as well. Commissioner Ramirez, Chair of the MCW Public Relations and Communications Committee has posted the announcements on the MCW Facebook page. Commissioners are urged to share the Calls for Nominations with the schools and organizations in their own counties. The deadline for receipt of nominations is 4 p.m., Friday, December 15. Two HOF nominations have been received already!

**IV. Staff Report.....Executive Director Vaughan-Prather**

**A. Staff Recruitment**

Commissioners Forde and Bachu helped conduct interviews for the Management Associate position in the MCW office. The staff is working with the DHR personnel office to move forward. It is hoped that the position will be filled before the end of the year.

**B. Annual Report**

The FY 2015 Annual Report is published! It has been posted on the MCW website and hard copies were included in the packets for the MCW Roundtable Meeting – so all commissioners attending should have a copy. Additional copies are available at the MCW office. Many thanks are due to the DHR Communications Office for such a beautiful job in the graphic design of the report and for getting it printed and delivered in time for today’s meetings. Much appreciation is also due to the commissioners who contributed so much effort and time over the past fiscal year to the MCW. The report reflects the MCW’s very hard work and many accomplishments in FY 15.

**V. Adjournment.....Commissioner Bachu**

MCW Chair Bachu thanked everyone for attending the three meetings today, and for all their very hard work in between meetings of the MCW. There being no further business, she adjourned the meeting at 3:30 p.m.

***Respectfully submitted:***

Judith Vaughan-Prather, Executive Director  
Maryland Commission for Women  
11/17/2015

APPROVED JANUARY 21, 2016