



Municipality of Anchorage  
P.O. Box 196650 • Anchorage, Alaska 99519-6650 • 825 "L" Street • <http://www.muni.org>

## Anchorage Women's Commission



### **AWC Meeting 5/13/2021 5:30 – 7:00 pm Microsoft Teams online meeting**

**Commissioners Present: Valerie Chadwick, Monica Elkinton (Co-chair), Sheri Lisenbee, Cambria Patz (AHD host), Joan Ryan (Chair), Leslie Vines**

**Guests Present: Charlene Aqpiq Apok**

#### **I. Call to Order**

- Quorum established & Call to Order at 5:33 pm

#### **II. Introduction**

- Commissioners
- Data for Indigenous Justice Executive Director, Charlene Aqpiq Apok

#### **III. Approval of Agenda**

- Motion to approve agenda (Co-chair Elkinton)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> to approve (Commissioner Vines)

#### **IV. Approval of Minutes**

- Motion to approve April 2021 minutes (Chair Ryan)
- Motion to second (Commissioner Lisenbee)

#### **V. Old Business**

- Update on health care provider list (Chair Ryan)
  - Hope to have it done in the next two weeks. I will share it with everyone so you can add to it or let me know if you have any questions.
- Updates on pending legislation (Co-chair Elkinton)
  - State update to consent
    - For a summary of what's happening with Rep Geran Tarr's bill (HB5) to update the definition of consent, look at the document Rep Tarr wrote about why the changes were needed, [http://www.akleg.gov/basis/get\\_documents.asp?session=32&docid=12889](http://www.akleg.gov/basis/get_documents.asp?session=32&docid=12889)
    - This would criminalize things that happen in our community, but there is currently no punishment or little punishment for.
  - MOA changes for Harassment & Child Abuse

- The prosecutor’s office seeks to expand the definitions of groping (currently the crime of “harassment”) and child abuse, to make more behavior illegal. A proposal was presented today to the Public Safety Committee and the prosecutor’s office expects it to move forward in the municipal Assembly.
  - The way the child abuse code is currently worded allows for bad things to happen to children if the person committing those acts says they were doing it to discipline the child.
  - The Muni has many cases with men in hospitals or healthcare facilities who are touching nurses in an unwanted way, and there is currently an exception in the code where if the man says he was doing it for fun then it is legal.
- If the commission is in favor of both proposals, we might write letters of support to the members of the state Judiciary Committee.
  - Chair Ryan agrees with the idea to write letters of support, and AHD Host Cambria will check if letters to the Assembly must be routed through the Mayor.
  - Co-chair Elkinton will draft the letters and share them with the commission.

## **VI. Public Comments**

- “Arctic Women and COVID-19 Pandemic: Measuring and Understanding COVID-19 Gendered Impacts in the Arctic (COVID–GEA)” NSF proposal (Charlene Aqpiq Apok, Executive Director, Data for Indigenous Justice)
  - Charlene has a background in research and worked in the gender justice and gender equity arenas. Through her partnerships in the Arctic and through the Circumpolar North, she has been doing a lot of Arctic research. She worked on a gender equality report for the Arctic which was an international collaboration and will be published on the 21<sup>st</sup>. A small group formed through this collaboration and they decided to put forth a proposal to the National Science Foundation. She has a partner in Russia and in Iceland and another partner who is D.C. based but also works with Indigenous folks in the Arctic. They are looking to do a comparative study across Iceland, Russia and Alaska by pulling quantitative and qualitative data to show the ways that Covid impacts were very gendered. One of the research sites will be in Anchorage, and they are wondering if the Women’s Commission would be interested in writing a letter of support.
  - All in favor for signing and sending a letter of support.

## **VII. New Business**

- Issues that AWC wants to work with the Assembly on, existing or new (All commissioners)
  - Chair Ryan sent an email to Assembly Member Meg Zaletel to see what the Assembly is currently working on and if the AWC can help. Rep.

Zaletel said one area to help with is the alcohol tax dollars which contains significant early education money to prevent domestic violence, sexual assault, and childcare abuse. Another area Rep. Zaletel mentioned is how to get and keep women in the workforce because many women gave up their work to stay at home.

- Chair Ryan will continue to correspond with Rep. Zaletel to see how the AWC can help with these issues.
- Chair Ryan will begin working on the AWC end of the year report for the previous fiscal year over the June-July break.
- Our responsibility while on break (Chair Ryan)
  - All in favor of continuing to work as a commission via email while on break from scheduled meetings.
  - Commissioner Chadwick will send information on diversity and equity from her work that would be applicable to the group.
  - Co-chair Elkinton suggested that if any commissioner has something to share on the AWC Facebook page, you can send it as a private message or email it to her.
- Summer events (All commissioners)
  - Commissioner Lisenbee will share info about Pride next month. There will be a block party on the 26<sup>th</sup>.

#### **VIII. Adjournment, 6:20 pm**

- Motion to adjourn (Commissioner Lisenbee)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> to adjourn (Commissioner Vines)

#### **IX. Next Meeting – August 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021 5:30 – 7:00 pm**