



COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

July 12, 2007 – 6:00 PM

Permit and Resource Management Department
2550 Ventura Avenue, Santa Rosa CA 95403

MINUTES

Commissioners Present: Liz Acosta, Chris Allen, Patricia Boyd, Karen Famini, Jan Kiely, Roxanne Meuse, Tiffany Renée, Jeanne Robinson, Donna Roper

Commissioners Absent: Carylon Alexander (Notified), Ginny Doyle (Notified), Rebecca Hollingsworth (Notified), Carol McHale (Notified).

Junior Commissioners Present: None.

Community Members: Christina Brenner

Staff Present: Maggie Martin

I. Call to Order - Introduction of Commissioners and Staff: Renée called the meeting to order at 6:03 PM.

II. Consent Items: The Agenda and Minutes of the June 14, 2007 Commission meeting were reviewed and approved.

III. Public Comment: Christina Brenner, a resident of the 2nd District, explained that she had submitted her application to serve on the Commission. After having worked as an administrator for a large vocational school in San Francisco, she has decided to focus on becoming informed and involved with issues in Sonoma County.

IV. Commission Update:

Swearing in of New Commissioners: None.

Appointments and Openings:

- Mary Alex Needham has tendered her resignation due to unforeseeable responsibilities in her personal life.
- Carol McHale has informed staff that she will be resigning due to the demands of her job and academic commitments.
- Currently, there is one opening in the 1st, 2nd, and 5th Districts. However, the opening in the 2nd District may soon be filled.



V. Supervisor Communication Updates:

- Renée reported that the appointment she had with Supervisors Kerns has been rescheduled.
- Boyd reported that she had met with Supervisor Kerns who had expressed his appreciation for his earlier meeting with Ann Goodrich (Director of Human Resources), Martin and Hollingsworth to discuss the Report. Supervisor Kerns also expressed his support of Boyd's efforts with the Domestic Violence Prevention Council.
- Kiely reported that Acosta, Allen and she are scheduled to meet with Supervisor Kelley on July 30th to review the Report.

VI. Old Business:

Report Card Event: Acosta reported that, with the help of those who volunteered at the last meeting, progress has been made in most areas related to planning the event. However, the logistics have continued to pose a challenge, and without those arrangements, little progress can be made on such other fronts as fund raising. She reported that Hollingsworth has explored such alternatives as:

- coordinating with Prof. Jolly's activities at Sonoma State University in August and September, and
- holding an "invitation only" presentation (e.g., breakfast) for members of the press, public officials and community partners.

The Commission discussed the alternatives at some length. Martin expressed her concerns over continuing with the luncheon as originally planned given the logistical difficulties, the potential financial exposure if sponsorships/ticket sales fall short of expectations and the continued distraction from strategic planning and starting new projects. Commissioners also agreed that speaking to community groups as an alternative for publicizing CSW and the Report offers both scheduling flexibility and the opportunity to build strategic partnerships.

The consensus was to proceed with holding an "invitation only" presentation that will limit costs and, hopefully, maximize exposure to the media, help build partnerships with community partners, and gain attention among the County's elected officials.

Report on the Status of Women in Sonoma County: Martin reported for Helm. So far, discussions have taken place with Supervisors Brown, Kerns, Reilly, and Smith. They have made several comments and suggestions for changes, the most significant of which is to broaden our recommendation on ensuring that wages are sufficient, given the cost of living in the area, to include possibilities beyond the Living Wage Ordinance initiative.

Renée explained that she had done some additional research on the home health workers. This group has been cited as a problem with the County adopting an Ordinance, because the state-mandated rate of pay falls far short of the living wage threshold. The County has committed to subsidizing the rate, but it still falls below the threshold set by the Living Wage Coalition. Renée noted that this issue is important both because the majorities of the group are women and because, without home health care, overall costs would increase and be covered by other government programs.

Martin reported that Helm has met with Leslie Williams, a designer willing to help with the “look” of the Report. Helm hopes to have a finished Report available for the presentation to the Board of Supervisors on August 14th.

VII. New Business:

Strategic Planning: Martin asked Commissioners to consider proposing projects for CSW to take on in the next biennium. She urged them to take advantage of the flexibility that CSW’s new structure offers. While all projects need approval by the Commission as a whole. Commissioners can now enjoy a greater degree of independence and can take on a project on which they work with outside volunteers rather than the old structure of standing committees. She also emphasized the importance of developing projects with measurable results and of periodically evaluating the progress towards goals.

Martin explained that, given the responses received to date, the alternatives for holding our strategic planning session are Friday, August 24th or Friday, September 14th. She also reminded the Commission that Dawn Matheny had offered to facilitate the session. A brief discussion followed. **Motion by Roper**: *“Move to hold the strategic planning session on Friday, August 24th with Dawn Matheny as facilitator.”* Second by Famini. Motion carried unanimously.

VIII. Ad Hoc Committee Reports:

ACCW: Acosta reported that Hollingsworth has asked her to attend the next regional meeting scheduled for August 3rd.

Family Violence Prevention Council: Boyd reported that the sub-committee on which she servers will meet again on August 20th. She will have a report on the progress in planning the Teen Summit at the next Commission meeting.

Women’s Organizations: No report.

IX. Staff Report:

Reorganization: Martin reported that the office organization project is ongoing. The office’s copier will be upgraded to include scanning capability. This will allow us to scan many archival documents and make them accessible on our web site.

The recruitment for the EEO Manager position is ongoing. The County’s offer was declined. At this point, management is going to interview a fourth candidate from the initial recruitment who lives and works in the area.

Roberta’s Rules: Martin reminded Commissioners that CSW uses Roberta’s Rules of Order for conducting Commission meetings. She offered to lend the Office copies to new Commissioners who might be interested in learning more about this approach to meetings.

Correspondence: None.

Update on Staff’s Current Activities/Issues: Martin pointed out that the issue of whether to cancel the August Commission meeting had inadvertently been omitted from this meeting agenda. She explained that, traditionally, the Commission does not hold its regular meeting in a month in which strategic planning is held. Commissioners indicated that they would prefer that the August meeting was cancelled. The group went on to note

that the September meeting will be held a week early on Thursday, September 6th, due to Rosh Hashanah.

X. Reports on Events and Activities: None.

XI. Commissioner Announcements: None.

XII. Next Meeting: The next meeting will be on Thursday, September 6, 2007 at 6:00 PM.

XIII. Adjournment: Hollingsworth adjourned the meeting at 7:22 PM.