



## COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

January 5, 2006 – 6:00 PM

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

### MINUTES

**Commissioners Present:** Chris Allen, Sharon Bass, Robyn Bramhall (Chair), Ginny Helm, Dena Lash, Carol McHale, Tiffany Renee, Carol Russell, Patricia Sheehan

**Commissioners Absent:** Rebecca Hollingsworth (Notified), Roxanne Meuse (Notified)

**Staff Present:** Dawn Matheny, Maggie Martin

- I. Call to Order - Introduction of Commissioners and Staff:** Bramhall called the meeting to order at 6:08 PM.
- II. Approval of Agenda:** The Agenda was reviewed and approved without revision.
- III. Community Input:** Several members of the public attended the meeting.
  - Sheehan introduced her Granddaughter Meilani, age 12.
  - Pat Oberg, a Santa Rosa resident and member of the American Association of University Women (AAUW), announced that the AAUW will be holding an International Women's Day Conference on March 18, 2006. They plan to have several noted women speakers at the event. She also announced that AAUW had recently changed its eligibility rules to extend membership to women who hold AA degrees. This action was taken a) to increase the potential membership pool and b) to admit women professionals in such fields as nursing. Oberg invited Commissioners to attend and publicize the event.
- IV. Approval of December 1, 2005 Commission Minutes:** The Minutes were reviewed and approved as revised.
- V. Board of Supervisor Meeting Updates:**

Russell reported that she had met with Supervisor Kelley who expressed his desire to see the Report Card present a fair representation of the status of Women in Sonoma County, including highlights of the Commission's positive findings.



## **VI. Reorganization Report Update:**

Bramhall reported that the Report has not been presented to the Board of Supervisors at this point.

The Report will come from Human Resources and is still being revised. Matheny explained that the recent flood had delayed the process of meeting with County Administration. The Executive Committee has reviewed the Report in draft format and offered input to Matheny. At this juncture, the Report is a response to the three directives given by the Board in December, 2004. These are:

- Examine the original purpose of the commissions as they relate to community needs, existing resources and current county structure.
- Identify more cost-effective ways to include public input into each Commission's issue.
- Explore how reliance on General Fund resources for administrative support of the Commissions can be reduced.

Since staff support comprises the majority of the expenditures for the Commissions, reducing reliance on the General Fund will mean cutting staff.

A lengthy discussion ensued about the Report. Commissioners expressed concern over a number of issues, including a) the prospect of additional budget cuts, given that the Commission was just cut through the reorganization process last year b) the administration's support of the Commission, because cutting too much will reduce the effectiveness of the Commission, and c) how to provide the Supervisors with an objective assessment of the Commission's value to the community. It was agreed that a copy of the draft Report would be made available to the Commissioners with the provisos that a) the Report, as drafted, is Human Resources' interpretation of the charge that the Board issued last year and b) it is a draft only and still subject to change. All feedback should be routed to the Executive Committee.

## **VII. New Business:**

- **War Memorial Statue of Santa Rosa:** Heather Hendrickson, of Guerneville, again addressed the Commission on this issue. She explained that the privately-funded memorial is being designed for installation in the Courthouse Square (public property). As designed, it includes two adult males and two children. She contacted the Mayor of Santa Rosa and was informed that, because it is privately funded, the City does not have authority to require that the Memorial be redesigned to include a woman. Hendrickson now plans to go before the whole City Council on this matter. She would like to add the Commission to the other community organizations who support her objection to the Memorial, as designed, being erected on public land.

The Commission discussed their concern about women being excluded from what is to be a publicly displayed representation of the County's military role since 1900 at length. Motion by McHale: *The Commission should support Hendrickson in her efforts to approach the Santa Rosa City Council and request that the memorial of military service incorporate women in order to be erected on public land.* Seconded by Sheehan. Unanimously approved.

## **VIII. Correspondence:** None

## **IX. Activities and Events:** None.

## **X. Committee Reports:**

- **Executive Committee:** Bramhall reported the Executive Committee's recent attention has focused on the Report as covered earlier in this meeting.
- **Quarterly Report Card Committee Chair Meeting:** Bramhall reported that the first meeting is scheduled for January 18, 2006 from 4:00 – 6:00 PM at the Community Involvement Division. She encouraged all interested Commissioners to attend. (Committee was subsequently renamed "Report Card Steering Committee.")
- **Junior Commissioners:** McHale reported that the Juniors have developed an on-line survey for young women in Sonoma County. They have included questions on a number of issues in hopes of addressing a range of areas that concern young women and girls. The survey is on Zoomerang.com. They will present their findings at the Youth Action Convergence on Presidents Day (2/20/06).
- **Employment, Education and Training:** Russell reported that the Committee is ready to start collecting and analyzing data. She introduced and welcomed Aleena Oberthur, a recent graduate of Macalester College and resident of Sebastopol, has agreed to serve as an intern for the Committee.
- **Childcare, Healthcare and Housing:** None.
- **Criminal Justice and Personal Safety:** None.
- **Representation and Access:** None.

**XI. Correspondence:** None.

**XII. Old Business:** None:

## **XIII. Commissioner Announcements:**

- **Domestic Violence & Human Trafficking:** Matheny announced that there will be a seminar held on this issue in San Francisco on 2/13/06. Information on the workshop is included in the mail bag.
- **Women's History Month:** McHale reminded everyone that March is Women's History Month. The Commission holds a "packet stuffing" event in conjunction with the February meeting to get the packets ready for distribution by the Sonoma County Office of Education (SCOE). The group agreed to hold the February Commission meeting from 5:00 – 6:00 PM on 2/2/06 now rescheduled for 5:30 – 6:30 pm. due to constraints on room availability. We can then stuff packets after the meeting.

**XIV. Next Meeting:** The next meeting will be on Thursday, February 2, 2006 at 5:30 PM.

**XV. Adjournment:** Bramhall adjourned the meeting at 7:15 PM.