



COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

February 2, 2006 – 5:30 PM

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

MINUTES

Commissioners Present: Chris Allen, Robyn Bramhall (Chair), Ginny Helm, Julia Ingram (Junior Commissioner), Rebecca Hollingsworth, Carol McHale, Roxanne Meuse, Tiffany Renee

Former Commissioner Present: Patricia Sheehan (term expired January 31, 2006)

Commissioners Absent: Sharon Bass (Notified), Dena Lash (Notified), Carol Russell (Notified)

Community Members: Heather Hendrickson, Marianne Holt (AAUW), Pat Oberg (AAUW)

Staff Present: Dawn Matheny, Maggie Martin

I. Call to Order - Introduction of Commissioners and Staff: Bramhall called the meeting to order at 5:32 PM.

II. Approval of Agenda: The Agenda was reviewed and approved without revision.

III. Community Input:

Pat Oberg a Santa Rosa resident and member of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) gave an update on the International Women's Day Conference on March 18, 2006. She distributed the new flyer and announced that it is important to pre-register, as space is limited. She also explained that she hopes that Aileen Hernandez will recognize Bramhall as CSW Chair and ask her to make a brief statement on CSW's make up and current project(s). Holt mentioned that AAUW is offering discounted memberships to those who register for the Conference.

IV. Approval of January 5, 2006 Commission Minutes: The Minutes were approved.

V. Supervisor Communication Updates:

- Sheehan reported that she has requested that Sup. Reilly reappoint her to a final term because of her enthusiasm for the Commission's new direction and the Report Card project. Renee reported that she is scheduled to meet with Sup. Kelley on February 16th.



VI. Reorganization Report Update:

Matheny reported that the Report, including the Work Plan, will be presented to the Board on Tuesday, February 7, 2006 at 8:30 AM. She asked that Commissioners attend to show support. She explained that Bramhall will address the Board regarding the Work Plan, and she will make a presentation on the Report.

She also explained that recent research on the requirements of the Brown Act has led to additional revisions in the Report. She will distribute an updated version to the Commissioners and asked that they only share that version with others.

She also mentioned that the Brown Act research will lead to additional changes in the Commission's committee structure that she believes will be beneficial. More information about these changes will be forthcoming at future meetings, but details cannot be discussed until the matter is formally included on the Agenda.

A brief discussion took place about the presentations and how the Commission's response to the Report would be handled. Bramhall encouraged Commissioners to attend and offer comment and offered to include any feedback that Commissioners provide in addition to the points made in her letter that had been distributed for review.

VII. Old Business:

- **Commissioner Guidelines:** Bramhall asked that Commissioners keep in mind the Courtesy Pledge that had been previously adopted as part of the guidelines for how Commissioners should treat one another at meetings. Copies were distributed.
- **International Women's Day Conference:** Bramhall reminded the Commissioners about the event (March 18, 2006) and encouraged them to attend if possible.
- **Proposed War Memorial in Courthouse Square:** McHale reported that she had attended the Santa Rosa City Council meeting on January 24th in support of the objection to a war memorial that excludes women being erected on public land. In all, 12 members of the community (some representing various organizations attended), and 6 addressed the Council. NOW and the National Women's Political Caucus were among the organizations that joined the Commission in supporting this movement. McHale commented that she was impressed that Mayor Jane Bender provided Hendrickson with specific "next steps" for pursuing this effort by attending the City Planning Commission meeting on February 22nd.

VIII. New Business:

- **Women's History Month Board Resolution:** Matheny explained that the Commission has traditionally requested that the Board proclaim March to be Women's History Month in Sonoma County. Since we are going before the Board on February 7th for the Report and Work Plan, staff had forwarded the Agenda Item requesting the proclamation so that all items could be heard together. She asked that the Commission endorse this action. Motion by Hollingsworth: *The Commission should support the Board of Supervisors' official proclamation of March as Women's History Month in Sonoma County.* Seconded by Sheehan. Unanimously approved.
- **Commission Meeting Box and Folders:** Bramhall explained that the Executive Committee had discussed operating efficiencies for meetings and the use of staff. She

asked Martin to speak about a suggestion for changing the distribution of meeting materials (i.e., Agendas and Minutes).

Martin explained that since all materials are sent via e-mail prior to the meeting, Commissioners could review them in advance and bring copies to the Commission meeting if they like. Staff can have small supply of all materials available in case someone forgets their own. The Commissioner's individual folders will be used for name placards and any special information or material requested. This change will reduce staff time in organizing and maintaining the "box." The Commission unanimously supported the change.

IX. Correspondence: Matheny announced that we had just received the notice of the next Association of California Commissions on Women (ACCW) quarterly meeting scheduled for February 10th in Los Angeles. She asked whether any Commissioners would like to represent us at that event. After a brief discussion, Bramhall agreed to go.

X. Activities and Events:

- **TechSplorers (Formerly GirlTech):** Bramhall reported that the program has been formerly turned over to the Konocti Council of the Girl Scouts now that the materials have been updated and she has trained 6 leaders. She notified staff that the Commission is still "on call" for support should they encounter any difficulties in establishing the program
- **State of the County Address:** Allen reported that she attended this address by Supervisor Kelley. The topics covered included transportation, including a possible commuter train line, imports and a proposed extension of the runway at the Charles Schulz Airport.

XI. 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 Steering Committee (Formerly Committee Chairs Committee):** Bramhall reported that the first meeting took place. The group decided to "get going" on holding public forums and established a goal of having community forums in each supervisorial district between March and June. Library meeting rooms have been identified as a potential location and Saturday afternoon as a potential time for the meetings.

Meuse reported that she has reserved a room at the Rohnert Park library on April 29th from 12:30 on. Sheehan reported that she will contact the Sebastopol library to schedule a time. Renee will also work on getting something set up in Petaluma. Martin reported that Russell has several dates reserved at the Cloverdale library.

Matheny also explained that the Committee is considering formatting the Report on a model of Appreciative Inquiry. This approach will allow the Commission to point out "what's right" as well as the areas where improvement are still needed in the Report. She went on to inform the Commission that a statistics class at Sonoma State has committed to analyzing the data we collect from our community partners.

- **Junior Commissioners:** Ingram reported that the Juniors will present the results of their survey on Zoomerang.com at the Youth Action Convergence on Presents Day (held at CHOPS in Santa Rosa on 2/20/06). They have extended the period for gathering data in hopes of getting more responses and have set up a special meeting to review the results. Bramhall invited the Juniors to present their findings to the Commission at the March meeting.
- **Employment, Education and Training:** Allen reported in Russell's absence that they have identified a community partner who can act as a resource for the Committee.
- **Childcare, Healthcare and Housing:** Meuse reported that the Committee is now working with an intern, Ruby Herbert. The work on data collection on the homeless issues is drawing to a close. While the data is being analyzed, several positive findings have come to light, including the fact that 1) Sonoma County's programs do provide a continuum of care for those affected, 2) the Task Force on the Homeless is active in this area and 3) the bed capacity in shelters is currently sufficient to provide housing to those homeless who wish to avail themselves of shelter facilities. In lieu of a meeting in February, the Meuse will be visiting the 4 C's to collect data on childcare. The Committee will also be looking at assisted housing and healthcare.
- **Criminal Justice and Personal Safety:** Hollingsworth reported that her Committee is moving forward and has benefited from the community partners who have joined in the Committee's work. This group has also adopted a protocol of using a relevance (aka "so what?") test to determine whether findings have any real meaning for the overall Report.

She went on to report two advances for women. First, Sonoma County now has a woman serving as Deputy District Attorney. Second, on the state level, the Governor has now signed legislation prohibiting the chaining of women prisoners during delivery.
- **Representation and Access:** Sheehan thanked the Committee's intern, Nera Brendt for all her research on women holding positions in local government (city and county levels). The Committee is now evaluating whether to extend this research based on an assessment of the influence and impact of various positions. Finally, she is working on getting more community partners involved in the project.

XII. Commissioner Announcements:

Renee announced that she had the opportunity to "ride along" with a Petaluma Police officer and was given a choice of "details." She had asked that she accompany an officer working the domestic violence response detail and is looking forward to the experience.

XIII. Next Meeting: The next meeting will be on Thursday, March 2, 2006 at 6:00 PM.

XIV. Adjournment: Bramhall adjourned the meeting at 6:40 PM.