



COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

March 2, 2006 – 6:00 PM

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

MINUTES

Commissioners Present: Robyn Bramhall (Chair), Ginny Helm, Rebecca Hollingsworth, Carol McHale, Roxanne Meuse, Tiffany Renee, Kathryn Robinson (Junior Commissioner)

Commissioners Absent: Chris Allen (Notified), Dena Lash (Notified)

Community Members: Pat Boyd, Heather Hendrickson

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:**
 - Patricia Boyd introduced herself. She is a resident of Petaluma and is currently a student studying to become a social worker. She is interested in serving on the Commission.
 - Heather Hendrickson gave an update on the proposed war memorial. She announced that, at this point, the memorial has been revised to eliminate the adult male figures altogether. Furthermore, the memorial sponsors may be seeking a non-public location. Hendrickson thanked the Commission for its support and assured the Commissioners that she would continue to monitor developments on this issue.
- IV. **Approval of January 5, 2006 Commission Minutes:** The Minutes were approved.
- V. **Supervisor Communication Updates:**
 - Renee reported that she is met with Sup. Kelley. He had expressed his support of the Commission's work. She had also let him know that she is scheduled to ride along with the Petaluma Police Department's domestic violence coordinator. Finally, Kelly assured Renee that he is prepared to make additional appointments.



VI. Staff Report:

Matheny reported that Family Action of Sonoma County had asked for the Commission's support of "family friendly" language to be included in the Sonoma County General Plan currently under development. A discussion ensued regarding the specific wording and the importance of how this organization defines "family" before issuing a formal letter of support. Matheny offered to draft a letter and send it to Commissioners for review prior to the next Commission meeting.

Matheny also reported that she will be on vacation for the month of May. During her absence, she asked that Commissioners contact Martin with questions or issues.

VII. Old Business:

- **Reorganization Report Update:** Matheny reported that the Report and Work Plan were presented to the Board of Supervisors on February 7th, with Bramhall presenting the Work Plan, and Meuse attending. The Supervisors were supportive of both the Report and the Commission's work.

With Board approval in place, the work on restructuring the committees to allow for greater flexibility and efficiency can begin. The Executive Committee and staff will be exploring alternatives for doing business so that staff time is used most effectively.

The Commission may face a potential budget cut for the 2006 – 2007 fiscal year. This will most likely mean a reduction in clerical staff support.

- **Women's History Month:** Martin reported that packets had been distributed to all public schools and were being sent to both private schools and public libraries. So far, we have received both requests for additional information and positive evaluations/comments on this year's packet and format. Hollingsworth reported that she has several speaking engagements scheduled for Women's History Month.

The office has received several positive evaluations of the new packet format. McHale recognized Martin's contribution to improving the packets.

VIII. New Business:

- **Association of California Commissions on Women (ACCW):** Bramhall reported that the Executive Committee had discussed the Commission's representation to the ACCW. Historically this role has been performed by staff, but the Executive Committee considered that, perhaps, a Commissioner should act as the primary contact for ACCW. A lengthy discussion ensued during which following points were discussed:

- the merits of having consistent representation at ACCW conferences versus giving all Commissioners the chance to attend, and
- the possibility that the "liaison" could coordinate alternative representation if she cannot attend (particularly for those sessions held in Southern California),
- potential liaisons.

Motion by Renee: *The Commission should appoint Hollingsworth as the liaison to ACCW.* Seconded by McHale. Unanimously approved.

IX. Correspondence: None.

X. Activities and Events:

- **Conference on Human Trafficking:** Renee reported that she had not been able to register.
- **Expanding Your Horizons:** Sonoma State University will host this event on March 17th and 18th. It is designed to encourage young girls to take science and math courses and to provide information on non-traditional careers.

The Commission has been asked to table at the event. We are asking Junior Commissioners to assist, as it is a great opportunity to recruit for next year's Juniors project. Martin passed around a sign up sheet for Commissioners to volunteer at the booth on March 18th.

XI. Committee Reports:

- **Executive Committee:**

- Bramhall reported the Executive Committee is not focusing on the effort to restructure the committees. The first step in the process is to meet with County Counsel to learn more about how the restructure can be accomplished and comply with all legal requirements.
- Bramhall also reported that the Executive Committee will be working with staff on developing a formal financial report for the Commission's budget and expenditures.

- **Report Card Steering Committee:** Bramhall reported that Helm has agreed to accept the responsibility for chairing this Committee.

Helm reported that the Committee is working on planning the open forums that are to be held in each supervisorial district during the Spring. She explained that they are developing a list of questions designed to frame the discussions. The Committee will also need to identify whether additional focus groups are needed to reach certain underrepresented groups within the community (e.g., victims of domestic violence who might not want to discuss their experiences in a public forum).

- **Junior Commissioners:** Robinson reported that the Juniors made a presentation at the Youth Activist Convergence on the results of their survey on Zoomerang.com. They developed an interactive format for presenting the problems and solutions identified based on the survey, while incorporating the specific comments from respondents. The Juniors are now exploring ways to bring this information to various schools throughout the County.

McHale reported that Lash has been working on arranging a luncheon meeting between the Junior Commissioners and women who hold public office.

- **Employment, Education and Training:** Matheny reported that Allen has assumed the responsibility of Chair for this Committee now that Russell has resigned from the Commission.
- **Childcare, Healthcare and Housing:** Meuse reported that, in lieu of a meeting, she and Martin visited Marinell Eva of the 4 C's to discuss and collect data on childcare. They learned that this is over 5,000 children are on the waiting list for subsidized daycare services in the County. Also, recent legislation provides pre-school services for all 4-year olds which are to be funded by a tax on the top 1% of taxpayers.

- **Criminal Justice and Personal Safety:** Hollingsworth reported that her Committee is now contacting various law enforcement agencies for statistical data. She had contacted the District Attorney's office and learned that they do not maintain gender-based data.
- **Representation and Access:** Bramhall reported that Sheehan has agreed to continue as Chair of this Committee. At this point, most of the data related to representation has been gathered, and that the Committee will now begin transitioning its focus to researching the access women in Sonoma County have to economic resources/power.

XII. Commissioner Announcements:

- McHale reported that the first woman had been inducted to the Baseball Hall of Fame.
- Bramhall reported that she will be attending a workshop for non-profit organizations hosted by SSU.
- Matheny reminded Commissioners to actively recruit for the openings on the Commission.
- Bramhall reported that nominations for the "Real Heroes Program" are due to the Red Cross by March 10th.

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

XIV. Adjournment: Bramhall adjourned the meeting at 7:34 PM.