



COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

April 12, 2007 – 6:00 PM

Permit and Resource Management Department

2550 Ventura Avenue, Santa Rosa CA 95403

MINUTES

Commissioners Present: Liz Acosta, Carylon Alexander, Robyn Bramhall, Karen Famini, Ginny Helm, Rebecca Hollingsworth, Jan Kiely, Carol McHale, Roxanne Meuse, Tiffany Renée, Donna Roper

Commissioners Absent: Chris Allen (Notified), Patricia Boyd (Notified), Jennifer Blackwood (Notified)

Community Members: Denise Hunt, Andrea Kao, Mary Alex Needham, Jeanne Robinson, Adriana Smith

Staff Present: Dawn Matheny, Maggie Martin

I. Call to Order - Introduction of Commissioners and Staff: Hollingsworth called the meeting to order at 6:13 PM.

II. Consent Items:

Approval of Agenda: The Agenda was reviewed and approved.

Approval of March 8, 2007 Commission Minutes: The Minutes were reviewed and approved.

III. Public Comment:

- Mary Alex Needham has applied to represent the 5th District to fill Bramhall's seat.
- Andrea Kao, a resident of the 1st District, came to see a Commission meeting. She has volunteered to help with the Report.
- Jeanne Robinson, representing the 1st District, came to because of her interest in the Commission.
- Denise Hunt, a resident of the 4th District, came to support Acosta as she takes her seat and because of her ongoing interest in the Commission.
- Adriana Smith, a resident of Petaluma came to learn more about the Commission.

IV. Commission Update:



Swearing in of New Commissioners: Liz Acosta and Jan Kiely were both sworn in to represent the 4th District.

Appointments and Openings:

- Bramhall announced her resignation from the Commission to be effective following this meeting. She has met with Mary Alex Needham and has recommended that Supervisor Reilly appoint her to fill the vacancy in the 5th District.
- Matheny reminded Commissioners that a vacancy remains in the 2nd District. Renée has met with Adriana Smith of Petaluma who plans to attend this evening's meeting.

V. Supervisor Communication Updates:

- Famini announced that Supervisor Brown spoke to the Junior Commissioners at their last meeting.
- Meuse and Hollingsworth reported that Supervisor Smith had been very supportive when they met to discuss the Commission, the Report and Women's' History Month.
- Renée reported that she had met with Supervisor Kerns to discuss a variety of issues.
- Roper reported that Supervisor Reilly had expressed his concerns about homeless issues when they had spoken.

VI. Old Business:

Report Card Event: Alexander reported that the Event Planning Group visited Sonoma Mountain Village in Rohnert Park and believes it is a suitable venue for the event. The facility has the following features:

- The "Oak Room" that can serve as a reception area.
- The "Main Event Room" (250 capacity) overlooks a garden and has a wall that would be suitable for a display of the tapestries. Tables and audio-video equipment are included in the room rental. We can rent other equipment (e.g., risers) that may help with our decorations.
- Kitchen facilities are available, and there is ample room for a buffet set up.
- Ample parking is available.

The management agreed to give us both the Oak and Main Event Rooms for a single price and require a deposit 7 days prior to the event. They are currently undergoing a change in on-site catering companies, but will continue to offer a discount if we use their caterer.

The Planning Group would like to hold the luncheon on Wednesday, August 29th, partially to commemorate Women's Equality Day (August 26th); the anniversary of Tennessee's ratification of the 14th Amendment. **Motion by Renée:** *Approve holding a luncheon on Wednesday, August 29, 2007 to announce the Commission's Report on the Status of Women in Sonoma County.* Second by Famini. Passed unanimously.

National Association of Commissions on Women (NACW): Bramhall explained that the Association of California Commissions on Women (ACCW) has recommended that all its member Commissions join this association. She met with Ceclia Zamora who represents women's commissions in our district and learned that NACW has now resolved the problems in balancing representation given the difference in the number of women's commissions in various areas of the country. Bramhall also explained that the annual membership in NACW is \$50.00. After a brief discussion, Commissioners concluded that any decision on this should be taken up as part of the strategic planning process.

Sutter Health Closing: Meuse reported that she had written a letter on behalf of the Commission to Supervisor Brown expressing concern over the potential gap in health services that Sutter's closing will cause. The letter explains that this gap will disproportionately affect women in the area of reproductive health concerns.

VII. New Business:

Public Policy Agenda and Proposals by the California Commission on the Status of Women (CCSW): Bramhall explained that the Report Card Steering Committee has recommended that recommendations in CCSW's Agenda and Proposals be included in our Report because, although they have a broader focus, they do dovetail with the recommendations arising out of our Report committees. However, the Commission should formally endorse Agenda and Proposals before taking this step. **Motion by Helm**: *"Move that the Commission formally endorse the Public Policy Agenda and Proposals by the California Commission on the Status of Women."* Second by Famini. Passed unanimously.

Report on the Status of Women in Sonoma County: Matheny explained that she now has a rough draft of the Report. Although there's now a document, it still needs editing, formatting and graphics/pictures. She asked Commissioners to solicit pictures from their community partners and other sources and send them to the office by April 19th.

She reported that she had met with Ann Goodrich (Director of Human Resources) to discuss the Report's findings. From that, she has been charged with ensuring that the Report's recommendations are specific enough to be "doable" and that the parties responsible are identified. She urged the Commissioners to review the draft sent to them via e-mail and to "weigh in" on the recommendations both in the SWOT (Strengths, Weakness, Opportunities and Threats) Analyses and at the end.

VIII. Ad Hoc Committee Reports:

Junior Commissioners: Hezi reported that Supervisor Brown spoke at their last meeting about women in politics and shared a story about the start of her political career. Everyone enjoyed her presentation.

She also reported that all the focus groups have been conducted, and the Juniors are reporting on their findings. Her focus group dealt with the path to college for young women and how it is affected by family and other close relationships.

Famini reported that the last Juniors meeting will be a career panel. She's working on getting additional presenters, because a number of those women who had expressed interest previously are now not able to participate.

ACCW: No report.

Family Violence Prevention Council: No report.

Women's Organizations: Reneé attended AAUW's healthcare event in Petaluma. This is one of 365 such events planned throughout California supporting Senate Bill 840 for one health care system.

Famini reported that the Santa Rosa Chapter of AAUW is sponsoring three additional scholarships for young women to attend "Tech. Camp."

IX. Staff Report:

Reorganization: Matheny reported that the EEO Manager position has been posted, and the County is accepting applications through May 4th. Under the current plan for the office, the conference room will become the Manager's office. Maggie will move to Dawn's office so that she can have space for small "workgroup" meetings in that space. Larger meeting will be held in the B150 Conference room down the hall from the office.

Governing Ordinance Revisions and Approval: Martin reported that the request for approval of amendments to the governing ordinance has been postponed. At this point, the matter is schedule to go to the Board for approval at the April 24th meeting.

Correspondence: None.

Update on Staff's Current Activities/Issues: Matheny invited Commissioners to join her at her retirement reception on Monday, May 7th. The event will be held at the Union Hotel off Highway 12.

She also thanked Robyn Bramhall for her incredible service as a Commissioner and Chair. She explained that staff had prepared a certificate of appreciation. However, she was unable to present it at the meeting, because we had problems the installation of the new printer in our office.

X. Reports on Events and Activities:

Expanding Your Horizons: Bramhall reported that she the Juniors did a wonderful job staffing the booth at the event. A number of the attendees expressed an interest in the Junior Commissioner project. Unfortunately, attendance at this year's even was lower than usual because of some problems with transportation to the event.

Cornerstone: Renée recently attended a presentation by the Petaluma Police Department targeted at outreach to the Hispanic community in the Petaluma area.

XI. Commissioner Announcements:

- Bramhall announced that plans for this year's Gay Pride Festival are under way. She will forward information on tabling to the Office.
- Famini announced that "Is It Good For The Children" will be held at CHOPS on April 20th.
- Hollingsworth announced that she has been invited to the Renaissance Weekend, and she hopes to attend in the non-profit and activist tracts.

XII. Next Meeting: The next meeting will be on Thursday, May 10, 2007 at 6:00 PM.

XIII. Adjournment: Hollingsworth adjourned the meeting at 8:08 PM.