



COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

January 10, 2008 – 6:00 PM

Permit and Resource Management Department

2550 Ventura Avenue, Santa Rosa CA 95403

MINUTES

Commissioners Present: Chris Allen, Patricia Boyd, Karen Famini, Rebecca Hollingsworth, Jan Kiely, Tiffany Renée, Donna Roper

Commissioners Absent: Liz Acosta (Notified), Christina Brenner (Notified), Carol McHale (Notified)

Junior Commissioners Present: Brigette Auld, Sarah Hadburg, Anna Szendreny

Staff Present: Maggie Martin

- I. Call to Order - Introduction of Commissioners and Staff:** Hollingsworth called the meeting to order at 6:01 PM.
- II. Consent Items:** The Agenda was approved. Approval of the Minutes of the December 13, 2007 Commission was tabled.
- III. Public Comment:**

Robyn Bramhall, former member of CSW, addressed the Commission on two issues.

- She has continued her efforts to have the Santa Rosa Symphony present works by women composers during March in honor of Women's History Month. Toward that end, she met with the Music Director, Bruno Ferrandis about the issue and gave him a recording by the Women's Philharmonic Orchestra. He did not make any promised, but seemed interested and supportive of considering this for the future.
- Bramhall also reported that she will conduct training for Girl Scout leaders on facilitating TechSplorers (formerly CSW's GirlTech program) in February. She is pleased that the program will be continued.

Jeanne Miskel, Esq., Chief Attorney for the County's Department of Child Support Services provided an overview of the Department's functions and issues related to child support and enforcing support orders. She pointed out that California now has a centralized collection/disbursement center for withholding, and the County's Department has now switched over to the statewide computer system. She also distributed informational packets to Commissioners.



IV. Commission Update:

Swearing in of New Commissioners: None.

Appointments and Openings: Hollingsworth reported that she'd spoken to McHale who had indicated that she would be submitting her resignation to Supervisor Brown, due to her work and school commitments. Renée reported that she has been reappointed to represent the 2nd District. Martin reported there are still five openings in the 1st (1 opening), 3rd (2 openings), and 5th (2 openings) Districts.

V. Commissioner Announcements and Updates:

Announcements:

- Roper announced that she will be speaking on Women's History Month during the local Guerneville radio station's open mike program (Monday – Friday from 5:00 – 6:00 PM).

Supervisor Communication Updates:

- Roper reported that she had spoken with Supervisor Riley recently, and he continues to support the Commission.

VI. Old Business:

Proposed Projects Update for Work Plan: Martin asked for a group of Commissioners to help review and edit the Work Plan. Roper and Hollingsworth volunteered.

AAUW Convention: Renée announced that the fee for an informational booth at the Conference's Marketplace will be \$50.

MOTION by Roper: Approve expenditure of \$50 for a booth at the AAUW Conference.

Martin reminded the Commissioners that, beyond financial sponsorship, having a booth requires having someone set up the display, decide on materials for distribution and then handle transportation/set up and staffing at the event. Hollingsworth and Famini said that they would work with Junior Commissioners to get volunteers to help with these efforts.

WIN Scholarship Fund: Hollingsworth reported that she is writing a letter to Deborah Holden, Interim Director of the Girl Scouts of the Konacti Council about that organization serving as the fiscal agent to manage the WIN funds. She is optimistic that this arrangement can be made.

Nominations for Office-at-Large: Renée reported that, given McHale's resignation, the current nominee is Brenner and called for additional nominations from the floor. Roper nominated Acosta.

Organic Cannabis Foundation: Hollingsworth recognized Donna Frank, Owner, Organic Cannabis Foundation of Northern California who addressed the Commission about current threat to safe access to medical marijuana. Frank explained that the federal Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) has begun threatening property owners of rented distribution centers for medical marijuana with felony convictions and the confiscation of their property. As a result, the Foundation has been evicted and is in the process of finding another location to purchase. One possibility has been identified; however, a zoning

change would be required. Frank pointed out that without safe dispensaries, women are faced with “going to the streets” to get the marijuana they need for treatment. This is particularly threatening for women.

Frank asked the Commission for whatever support it could offer. A formal appeal to support the rezoning of the specific property she is trying to purchase would be optimal, but a general statement of support for safe access to organic cannabis for women would be helpful.

A lengthy discussion ensued during which the Commissioners discussed possible forms of support and the question of whether they thought it appropriate to support for one specific provider vs. broader support for safe access. **MOTION by Roper:** Move that the Commission write a letter to the Board of Supervisors in support of women in Sonoma County having assurance of safe access to medicinal marijuana. Seconded by Famini and carried.

Leadership Institute for Ecology and the Economy: Renée reported that the conference will be held on February 1st. Hollingsworth will be speaking on the findings of the *Report*. Renée will also be attending.

VII. New Business:

Election of Officer-at-Large: Item tabled until February meeting.

2008 Commission Meeting Calendar: Martin spoke in Hollingsworth’s absence and explained that the 2nd Thursday of September (September 11th) conflicts with Rosh Hashanah and that CSW has rescheduled its September meeting to avoid the conflict with this holiday in the past. **MOTION by Roper** *Move to hold the September 2008 Commission meeting on Thursday, September 18, 2008.* Seconded by Kiely and carried unanimously.

Proposed Press Releases: Renée asked for authorization to develop and issue press releases on important women’s issues. Examples include Noreen Evans’ appointment to the State Commission on the Status of Women, and current opportunities for women in public appointments.

VIII. Ad Hoc Committee Reports:

- ***Self Sufficiency Calculator:*** No report.
- ***Non-Traditional Career Exploration:*** No report.
- ***Public Opportunities for Women’s Equal Representation (POWER) Task Force:*** Roper announced that the next meeting will be January 22, 2008, at 1:00 p.m. at Aroma Roasters.
- ***Family Violence Prevention Council Liaison:*** Boyd announced that the Education subcommittee’s poster contest winner will be announced on January 18, 2008. The full Council will be meeting, and Boyd hopes to have a report on developments outside her subcommittee at the next Commission meeting.
- ***Junior Commissioner Project:*** Famini reported that as of January, the Juniors started meeting on the third rather than the second Wednesday of each month. Therefore,

there has not been a meeting since CSW met in December. Auld reported that she had conducted her focus group, and Hadburg reported that hers has been coordinated...

- ***Women's Organizations Liaisons:***
 - South County: Renée reported the Petaluma's history walk that is being developed, as part of the City's 150th anniversary will focus on local women.
 - North County: None due to Hollingsworth's absence.
- ***ACCW Liaison:*** Boyd mentioned that she had received an e-mail on the upcoming Quarterly meeting in Marin County. She promised to forward that information on to staff.
- ***Legislation Affecting Women (LAW) Task Force:*** Martin reported for Acosta that they had met in December. Acosta has developed a list of pending legislation that falls within the issues that CSW and the County's Strategic Plan have identified as matters of concern. She will share that information at the next meeting.
- ***Older Women's Task Force:*** Kiely announced that the group will meet at 9:30 AM on January 18th in her office at Healdsburg Regional Hospital.
- ***Speakers Series:*** No report.
- ***Women's History Month Coordinator:*** Martin reported that Hollingsworth has been in touch with the Sonoma County Office of Education (our partner in distributing packets to schools) to explore alternatives for making the packet available at a lower cost and/or without the volume of paper. She will report on the progress in this area at February's meeting.

IX. Staff Report:

Reorganization: Martin reported that Taryn Lewis sent her regrets for being unable to attend the meeting to meet the Commissioners. She expects that Lewis will attend the February meeting.

Correspondence: None.

Update on Staff's Current Activities/Issues: Martin reported that staff has been focused on CHR's annual Rev. James E. Coffee Human Rights Awards Event will be held on Saturday, January 12, 2008 at the Mary Agatha Furth Center in Windsor. She invited Commissioners to attend and announced that they would welcome any volunteers to help with greeting guests and serving dinner that evening. Boyd and Kiely volunteered.

X. Next Meeting: The next meeting will be on Thursday, February 15, 2008 at 6:00 PM.

XI. Adjournment: Renée adjourned the meeting at 7:25 PM.