



COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

January 8, 2009 – 6:00 PM

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

MINUTES

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Liz Acosta, Christina Brenner, Donna Roper, Chris Allen, Jan Kiely, Karen Famini, Priscilla Vivio;

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Rebecca Hollingsworth

JUNIOR COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Tina Vivio

STAFF PRESENT: Dell Jacoby

I. CALL TO ORDER - INTRODUCTION OF COMMISSIONERS AND STAFF:

Acosta called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

II. CONSENT ITEMS: The Agenda for January 8, 2009 was approved; Minutes from the December 11, 2008 Commission meeting were approved with minor revision. (Kiely/Brenner)

III. PUBLIC COMMENT: Tiffany Renee, former Commissioner from the 2nd District, spoke to the Commission about her positive experience with the Commission and encourage Commissioners to continue the good work of the Commission. She particularly encouraged the Commission to advocate to limit budget cuts to school budgets that may have a large impact on working mothers.

IV. COMMISSION UPDATE:

Swearing in of New Commissioners: None.

Appointments and Openings: Kiely reported that, with the resignation of Tiffany Renee, there are openings in the 2nd District (1 opening), 3rd (2 openings), 4th (1 opening), and 5th (2 openings) Districts for 6 openings overall. When possible, Commissioners will distribute information about Commission openings.

V. COMMISSIONER ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPDATES:

Announcements:

- Acosta reminded Commissioners of the change in meeting dates for February. Next meeting will be February 5, 2009



- Brenner reported that she and other partners from the Commission on Human Rights, the Probation Department, the Sheriff, the District Attorney, Health Services and Human Services, as well as UASA, YWCA and other partners from the community addressed the Board of Supervisors regarding the issue of Human Trafficking and requested the Board declare January 11 as Human Trafficking Awareness Day in Sonoma County. The effort was strongly supported by Supervisor Brown (1st District) and Supervisor Kerns (2nd District.) She encouraged Commissioners to attend the January 11, 2009 Human Trafficking event sponsored by the Soroptimists International. Acosta also expressed how supportive the Board was of this effort and looks forward to working with our stakeholders.
- Boyd provided the Commission with brochures and a resource book from United Against Sexual Abuse.
- Tina Vivio, Jr. Commissioner reported that she and others teens from Sonoma County will attend the Presidential Inauguration on January 20th in Washington D.C.

Supervisor Communication Updates:

- Commissioners from District 3 and 5 were encouraged to contact their new Supervisor to introduce themselves. Packets to new Board members have gone out.

VI. OLD BUSINESS:

Revision of Project Update Form: Vivio reported on revision of the project update form, to be used by each committee prior to Commission meeting to update Commission and staff on the efforts of each committee. The finalized the form was presented at the January meeting.

National Women's History Partnership: Vivio reported that the production A Sense of Wonder will be presented on March 21. There will be a reception from 6:00 – 7:00 PM; remarks from 7:00 to 7:45 and the show at 8:15 – 9:45. **Action Taken:** Motion that the Commission work in partnership with the National Women's History Project to produce and present the play A Sense of Wonder, sponsoring at \$1,000 taking an active role in the planning committee and receiving back the \$1,000 sponsorship and 25% of all proceeds after expenses.(Vivio/Famini)

VII. NEW BUSINESS:

Presentation of Older Women and Long Term Care: Maria Torres presented on the difficulties she had in securing a nursing home bed for her aunt after the aunt lost her bed due to a hospitalization. Ms. Torres had great difficulty in this process and did not know of services to aid her. She was able to successfully attain a bed for her aunt, but wanted the Commission to hear how difficult it had been. Chris Allen commented on the growing issue of older women and health care and share projection maps of the growing senior population world wide.

Census Update: Acosta discussed the idea of updating the Report Card in relation to the upcoming national census in 2010. This subject will be discussed again at a later date.

VIII. AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Junior Commission (Famini): Famini reported that the Junior Commission held a career panel on January 6 with women from the medical field, the arts, media and international studies. The Juniors enjoyed the panel and thank Chris Castagna, Amy Gorchoff Famini, Jann Nunn, and Karen Whitaker for their time.
- Women's History Month Coordinator (Hollingsworth/Vivio): No report. Staff reminded the Commission that packets to schools should go to SCOE in January.
- Self-Sufficiency Calculator (Renee): This project is on hold.
- Organization Liaisons
 - South County (Renee): Acosta reported that currently we do not have consistent liaison with women's organizations in north and south county. The Commission will revisit this issue when Commission is fully seated.
 - North County (TBD): No report.
 - ACCW (Association of California Commissions on Women) Liaison (Acosta): Commission has been added to ACCW mailing list and will be notified of events and issues of importance.
 - Family Violence Prevention Council Liaison (Boyd): Boyd reported that the next meeting will be in February to discuss collaboration with UASA.
 - Community Issues Liaison (formerly Human Trafficking) (Brenner): Brenner reported that she attended a meeting of the collaborative group on Human Trafficking on January 5. Supervisor Brown was among those attending and encouraged the Commission, in collaboration with the Commission on Human Rights, to take the lead on this effort. Next steps include adding structure to the effort. Brenner will also present at the Santa Rosa Rotary in January.
 - Non-Traditional Career Exploration Liaison (Brenner): Brenner reported that she continues to participate in the Sonoma County K-12 Career Development Project. They recently met for a whole day and will pick up the project again in February. This project could serve as a national model.
- Representation and Legislation Task Force (Acosta/Roper): Roper reported that the 2009 Legislative agenda should be available soon. This group will identify 3-4 issues to discuss with our Supervisors. They are also looking at replicating the leadership training provided by the Leadership Institute last year.
- Older Women's Issues Task Force (Allen/Kiely): Kiely reported that the speaker at the beginning of the meeting falls well within this area for the Commission. This group is currently discussing a narrower focus to their effort that will avoid duplication of other's efforts.
- Speakers Series Task Force (Brenner): Brenner will review the work plan and report to the Commission the status of this project. Recently, the Series has hosted the Human Trafficking panel in July of 2008, presented to the AAUW and the NOW Organization and have been guests on Sonoma County Today twice this fiscal year.
- Recruitment Task Force (Acosta): No report

IX. STAFF REPORT:

Correspondence: Staff reported on a project of Listening for a Change called Community Conversation Circles. Staff will seek a time when a presentation may be made on the Circle project.

Attendance Report Distribution: Staff distributed the attendance report to Commissioners.

Update on Staff Activities: Staff updated the Commission on the Reverend James E. Coffee Human Rights Awards, to be held on January 17 at the Redwood Credit Union Sonoma Community Room from 1:00 to 5:00 PM.

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting will be on Thursday, February 5, 2009 at 6:00 PM.

X. ADJOURNMENT: Acosta adjourned the meeting at 7:20 PM.