



COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN
MINUTES – AUGUST 13, 2009
Registrar of Voters Conference Room
435 Fiscal Drive, Santa Rosa CA 95403

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Liz Acosta, Chris Allen, Mary Basham, Karen Famini, Jan Kiely (Chair), Priscilla Vivio

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Christina Brenner (Vice-Chair), Lisa Maldonado, Donna Roper (Officer-at-Large) (all notified)

I. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Jan Kiely called the meeting to order at 6:06 PM.

II. CONSENT ITEMS:

On a motion by Acosta, seconded by Vivio, the Agenda for August 13, 2009 was approved after correcting the VII New Business list of proclamations to be sent to the Board of Supervisors to those for this Commission rather than that of the Human Rights Commission (as given below); Minutes from the July 9, 2009 meeting and the July 21, 2009 Strategic Planning meeting were revised and approved.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was no public comment.

IV. APPOINTMENTS AND OPENINGS:

Kiely announced that the current vacancies are: none in the 1st District, two in the 2nd, one in the 3rd District, one in the 4th District, and two in the 5th District, totaling six openings.

Concern was expressed by all attending over the number of vacancies and absences this meeting. It was suggested that, at the Strategic Plan update to be given to the Board of Supervisors, a strong request should be made to the Supervisors to fill this Commission's vacancies. After further discussion, it was moved by Famini, seconded by Basham, and unanimously passed to direct the Commissioners to publicize the openings as is possible, such as in the newspapers and at the Volunteers' Bureau. Kiely will talk to Nadine about what has been done before.



V. SUPERVISOR COMMUNICATION UPDATES:

- Basham met with Supervisor Zane and noted that Zane has a Summit on the Economy in the Supervisors' Chambers on August 18, 2009. She also asked about the Third District's vacancy and was told that Zane has some possibilities in mind.

VI. OLD BUSINESS:

Strategic Planning:

Kiely gave a review of the July 20th Strategic Planning session, emphasizing the following points: The main topic was the transition to the current reduction in staff support and related issues. These included the shift in priorities in our focus, to two core projects and the Community Issues Liaisons and Coordinators (as listed under item VIII). Appreciation was given to Acosta for her expertise and assistance at the planning session.

The next steps are summarizing the plan and formally writing the Work Plan for 2009-2010 to be presented in to the Board of Supervisors. This will include the new focus on priorities, acknowledgement of current challenges, plans for use of the continuing budget as given, and the need, if goals are to be met or exceeded, for a full Board of Commissioners. With these in mind, direction will be sought from the Board of Supervisors for the future of the Commission. Acosta offered to assist Kiely in using the PowerPoint format for the Presentation; this will be further discussed at the September meeting.

Support for the 2009-2010 Junior Commissioner Project:

Famini reported receiving approval from SRJC to use the Pedroncelli Building and the Board of Trustees meeting room for the September 27th Junior Commissioner Orientation. The 09-10 schedule of meetings was reviewed, and Commissioners have volunteered to attend most of the meetings, along with Project Chair Famini and volunteer editor Jeanne Robinson; an updated schedule as well as the Orientation schedule will be emailed before the next meeting. Famini would appreciate receiving changes and suggestions, as well as Commissioner assistance in giving applications to schools and individuals before September 1, the deadline for submission.

VII. NEW BUSINESS:

Proclamations by Board of Supervisors for 2009-10 Fiscal Year:

Event names and dates for which proclamations have previously been requested by this Commission are: Women's Equality Day (August 26), Domestic Violence Awareness (October Proclamation as a joint Boards item), Human Trafficking Day (January), Women's History Month (March), and Junior Commissioner Recognition (May). After a motion was made by Acosta and seconded by Vivio to present requests to the Board for recognition of the previously listed events. During discussion, it was recognized that in reality, the request for the first date was not presented in time, but the event is important to include in our master list. The motion passed unanimously.

VIII. ACTIVITY REPORTS:

Junior Commission:

Famini stated that this had been discussed under old business.

Women's History Month Coordinator

Basham plans to attend the event on August 25 with the YWCA at Paradise Ridge Winery and will report back.

Community Issues Liaison & Coordinators:

◇ **Area Agency on Aging Liaison (Kiely):**

Kiely reported that she attended the Planning and Funding Meeting, where the impact of the 15% cut to services by the state was discussed, especially in light of the fact that some of the least-funded services were being cut, such as the "Respite for Alzheimer's" but that the "end-of-life" providers will be partially funded.

◇ **ACCW (Association of California Commissions on Women) Liaison (Acosta):**

Acosta reported that there had been no action to report.

◇ **Career Technical Education and Non-Traditional Career Coordinator (Brenner):**

No report.

◇ **Domestic Violence Liaison (Roper):**

Acosta reported that some Family Justice Center funding is coming in to the Supervisors, but that amounts aren't yet known.

◇ **Human Trafficking Liaison (Brenner):**

No report.

◇ **Legislation Coordinator (Vivio):**

Vivio reported that there is not much relevant new legislation but gave a comprehensive list of relevant legislation in detail, to help Commissioners be aware of what is pending.

◇ **Representation Coordinator (Roper):**

Acosta reported that the Appointments Training in the Rohnert Park Library had twenty-one attendees. Supervisor Brown spoke and, with Liz Figaro of "California Women Lead", led discussion of offices both appointed and elected, sharing their insights. Acosta and Roper were both encouraged by the attendance, impressed with the comments and enthusiasm for a local program. The discussion that followed the report included recognition that sufficient people were interested in this process to support it as an annual event, possible in January, which would give enough time for those who attended to file for June elections, as the deadline for filing for these is approximately four months before the election. To raise awareness of opportunities for public service – elected or appointed -- it was requested that the Agenda for the September meeting include an item requesting funding for this purpose.

IX. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:

Attendance Report Distribution:

Attendance report was distributed to Commissioners.

Budget Report Distribution:

Budget report was distributed to Commissioners.

Staffing Report:

Kiely reported that, at the suggestion of Supervisor Kelly, she and Judy Rice, Chair of the Human Rights Commission, met with Taryn Lewis with questions regarding commission functions, specifically the Brown Act, as well as questions regarding her vision of the future of CSW. Answers were received and relayed to members. Kiely may next make an appointment with Ann Goodrich, Ms. Lewis's Supervisor.

X. AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT COMMISSION MEETING:

1. In regarding the WIN funds, it was discussed and requested that, in order to better understand the option of a continuing SRJC scholarship, a representative of the SRJC Foundation speak to the Commission; Famini stated that such a person would be invited, most likely Rachel Cutcher, Constituent Relations Manager for the Foundation.

2. It was requested to have an agenda item, requesting funding for another political awareness and appointments training.

XI. NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting will be on Thursday, September 10, 2009 at 6:00 PM.

XII. ADJOURNMENT:

Kiely adjourned the meeting at 7:55 PM.