

**MINUTES
COUNTY OF SONOMA
COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN**

Thursday, June 8, 2023

6:00 PM

Hybrid Meeting

Commissioners Present:

Second District: Caitlin Quinn, Julie Shulman, Katie Gordon

Third District: Ofra Isler, Melanie Jones-Carter

Fourth District: Gina Fortino Dickson

Fifth District: Jessica Wood (Vice Chair), Zobida McCorquodale

Commissioners Absent:

First District: Jan Blalock (Chair), Joanne M. Brown (OAL), Nancy Padian

Third District: Ana Diaz-Garcia

Fourth District: Marta Cruz-Concepción (LOA)

Fifth District: Angie Dillon-Shore

Meeting held through publicly available link via Zoom Meeting, and in-person

1. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL

Meeting called to order at approximately 6:05 p.m. Roll call was conducted by the Vice Chair.

2. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Commissioner Jones-Carter read the Land acknowledgement.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDIZED ITEMS

No public comment

4. PRESENTATION BY SUZANNE HARRIS, COMMUNITY IMPACT DIRECTOR OF UNITED WAY WINE COUNTRY

Commissioner Isler introduced Suzanne Harris by reading her bio. Ms Harris spoke on the "Earn it, Keep it, Save it" program. This program provides free tax help throughout the bay area led by United Way in partnership with the IRS and a coalition of organizations. Services are free. Tax returns are prepared by trained and IRS-Certified volunteers. She shared impactful data from the community and the benefits the program attributes. She also invited the Commission to promote the program to increase their volunteers. The more volunteers, the more people they can help.

5. APPROVAL OF MAY 11, 2023 MEETING MINUTES

No Public Comment.

Motion: Commissioner Quinn
Second: Commissioner Isler

Ayes: 7 Noes: 0
Absent: 6 Abstained: 1

Commissioner Cruz-Concepción (LOA), Blalock, Brown, Diaz-Garcia, Padian, Dillon-Shore were absent. Vice Chair Wood abstained due to running the meeting. Motion passed.

6. OFFICER REPORTS AND ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATES

Officers and Staff to discuss administrative-related matters including, but not limited to, field trip ideas and speaker coordination.

- a. Staff reported out on behalf of Chair Blalock on the Family Justice Center (FJC) Community Summit Event. She spoke on how the FJC first started and how they are looking for input from community partners to redesign for the future. Commissioner Fortino Dickson added that each table brainstormed ideas, fleshed out those ideas and each idea led to the word Hope.
- b. Staff reminded everyone to submit all invoices and reimbursements by June 9th due to the end of the fiscal year. She also gave a brief update on the budget request. The BOS will be voting on the budget increase proposal by June 16th.

7. COMMISSIONER ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. Commissioner McCorquodale reported on the FJC tour. She was very impressed how 25 organizations are all located there and come to the client to provide services.
- b. Commissioner Wood and Commissioner Isler reported on tabling at the Wednesday Night Market. The wheel and stickers were popular. They met someone who works with parents of kids with disabilities and would like to invite her to speak to the Commission.
- c. Commissioner Jones-Carter and Commissioner Wood reported on Sonoma County Pride. Great turnout of 6. Commissioner Jones-Carter would like to improve materials and create a universal blurb to say when tabling.

8. OPENINGS AND APPOINTMENTS

- a. Vice Chair announced two openings in the 2nd district and in the 4th district. Commissioner Fortino Dickson added that District 4 is appointing a new Commissioner potentially in July.

9. BUSINESS ITEMS

- a. Commissioner Gordon led the discussion regarding creating a bylaws ad hoc committee. The bylaws were edited 4 years prior, but never got finalized. She would like the language to be more inclusive to all women. Commissioner Gordon will write a proposal for the strategic planning meeting. No action was taken.

10. AD HOC COMMITTEE AND PROJECT COMMITTEE UPDATES

Commissioners to provide reports and/or updates from the work being done by their ad hoc committee(s) and/or project committee(s).

- a. Junior Commission on the Status of Women finished interviews for the 2023/24 cohort. The cohort will have 16 juniors. They have their two field trips to Goatlandia on June 17th and July 21st. The Commission is invited to join.
- b. Sonoma County Spirit Award Project will start working on a work plan for the strategic planning meeting.
- c. Women's Recovery Response reported on the report process; Commissioner Gordon is re-writing the Voices portion of the report to make it more understandable to the reader. She reached out to the Office of Equity and they are meeting to talk about the data from Voices and how they can work together.
- d. There was no one from Women and Girls Reproductive Committee to report out.

11. COMMUNITY ISSUES, LIAISONS, AND COORDINATORS

Commissioners to provide brief updates or ideas on the following:

- a. Association of California Commissions for Women (ACCW): No new activity.
- b. Human Trafficking Task Force (SCHTTF)- No new activity.
- c. Legislative Advisory Group-No new activity.
- d. National Association of Commissions for Women (NACW): No new activity.
- e. YWCA's-No new activity.

12. AGENDA ITEMS FOR JULY 13, 2023 COMMISSION MEETING

Proposal, discussion, and possible action items for next Commission meeting. (No action required by commissioners for this section)

- a. Strategic Planning Meeting
- b. Tabling Discussion

13. ADJOURNMENT

This meeting was adjourned at 7:27 p.m.