

**MINUTES
COUNTY OF SONOMA
COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN – REGULAR MEETING**

Thursday, March 10, 2022

6.00PM

Virtual

Commissioners Present:

First District: Jan Blalock (Chair), Dianna MacDonald, Joanne M. Brown

Second District: Katie Gordon (Officer-at-Large), Caitlin Quinn

Third District: Ofra Isler, Lorena Barrera

Fourth District: Marta Cruz-Concepción

Fifth District: Jessica Wood (Vice Chair)

Commissioners Absent:

Third District: Amber Lucas (On Leave of Absence)

Fourth District: Angélica Núñez

Meeting held through publicly available link via Zoom Meeting

1. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL

Meeting called to order at approximately 6:02PM. Roll call was conducted by the Chair.

2. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Chair Blalock read the land acknowledgement.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDIZED ITEMS

No members of the public addressed the commission.

4. PRESENTATION

Four amazing women presented in honor of Women’s History Month. Commissioner Wood read each individuals bios before they spoke. Each one shared their individual experience and provided great advice to women.

Esther Lemus, Windsor Councilwoman, shared her experience running for office. She voiced the challenges that women face such as the opportunities given to men over women with less qualifications, fundraising, and sexual violence against women, specifically in politics. She encourages women to support each other and to not give up.

Victoria Fleming, Santa Rosa City Councilwoman, spoke about reshaping the economy in a way that evens the playing fields. She crafted an employer paid sick leave policy eventually adopted by the County of Sonoma. She has diversified her council and she is a strong advocate for women to join the City Council. She talked about the difference between a politician, an advocate, and an activist. She provided advice to help each other and be supportive, build your network, ask for help, and don’t do things you don’t want to.

Colleen Halbom, Executive Director of Wallace House, shared the new facility in Cloverdale. She provided a brief background of her involvement with Wallace House and her personal story that lead her to her involvement. Her advise is not to overhelp and to provide mental health services at an early stage. People aren't mean intentionally, they have a mental health condition. Remember there's a lot of sick people due to childhood trauma.

Natalie Rogers, Santa Rosa City Councilwoman, spoke about her truth and encouraged all women to "do better and be better for ourselves." The truth is that everyone needs selfcare. She provided examples of what she does for selfcare. She encouraged everyone to make time for selfcare because we can't give to others until we truly learn how to give to ourselves. To look out for each other and provide support to those who might need it.

The public and Commissions expressed their gratitude to the presenters.

5. APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 10, 2022 MEETING MINUTES

Motion: Commissioner Brown

Ayes: 7

Noes: 0

Second: Commissioner Wood

Absent: 2

Abstained: 2

Commissioner Lucas (on leave) and Commissioner Núñez were absent. Commissioner Barrera abstained. Chair Blalock abstained as Chair. Motion passed.

6. OFFICER REPORTS AND ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATES

- a. Chair Blalock reported on the presentation for the Sonoma County Alliance in honor of Women's History Month. Also, KTVU reached out to Chair Blalock to provide them with content to post on their site in honor of Women's History Month. Chair Blalock provided them with content that Molly McGregor provided her with.
- b. Officer's nominations will be in April, elections will be in May and have strategic planning in June.
- c. CHR is co-hosting a sheriff candidates forum event on April 7th at 6:30pm and have requested questions from CSW.
- d. Commissioner Gordon reported on the Women's Recovery Response Grant. CSW received a conditional offer letter for \$25,000. Submitted a reduced budget, tax documents, and updated the project in 3 days.

7. COMMISSIONER ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. Commissioner Cruz-Concepción went to Commissioner Wood's school and performed in three class rooms. Joined Lideres of Sonoma County on a letter to Supervisor Gore as chair of the Board that stated that they will not support any sheriff candidates that will work with I.C.E
- b. Commissioner MacDonald met with Jennielynn Holmes and got a tour of Caritas Estate. Welcomes the Commission to do a tour as well. They are creating a space for 4C's onsite and working with the hospital to better help individuals.
- c. Commissioner Cruz-Concepción has been working with 4C's and has helped secure \$25,000 and helped support vaccination for parents
- d. Corazon Healdsburg is hosting a conference for university students. Commissioner Cruz-Concepción will be there and Dolores Huerta as well on March 31st at the Raven.

8. BUSINESS ITEMS

- a. Chair Blalock provided a brief overview of the Sonoma County Child Care & Children's Health Initiative from the presentation given last meeting. She informed the commission that they can support the initiative however they can't provide any funding to the initiative. There was no discussion on this item. Motion to officially endorse the Sonoma County Child Care & Children's Health Initiative.

Motion: Commissioner Cruz

Ayes: 8

Noes: 0

Second: Commissioner Quinn

Absent: 2

Abstained: 1

Commissioner Lucas (on leave) and Commissioner Núñez were absent. Chair Blalock abstained as Chair. Motion passed.

- b. Commissioner Quinn lead the discussion on the social media policy. It hasn't been updated in about two years. Commissioner Quinn voiced her concern about not being ADA complaint. She suggested to have a communication officer that will be responsible for social media post.

Chair Blalock explained that currently Commissioner Wood and her are the ones who do 90% of the posts. Chair Blalock is open to the idea of a committee.

Commissioner Gordon asked for clarification in Commissioner Quinn's request.

Commissioner Quinn would recommend changing the Officer-At-Large position to Communications Officer or create a new officer position.

Commissioner Wood suggested to re-look at the policy and suggested not to create a new position.

Commissioner MacDonald said to try it before changing the bylaws.

Staff will look into the county's policy on social media.

No action was taken.

9. AD HOC COMMITTEE AND PROJECT COMMITTEE UPDATES

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

- a. CSW Monthly Radio Project reported there's an issue with the station; they only work with Petaluma residents. They do have a childcare recording.
- b. Impact of Covid-19 on Women in the Workforce ad hoc suggested that the allocated funds to be donated to 4C's. They are planning a childcare panel to raise awareness on childcare. The ad hoc will be writing a statement in support of the childcare initiative.
- c. The Junior Commission on the Status of Women is still accepting applications. Thanked those who signed up to do interview. Both genders are welcome to apply to join the jr. commission and Commissioner Ofra will review the language to encourage both genders

to participate.

- d. Commissioner Quinn hasn't received any nominations for judges. She is thinking that maybe the judges can be the winners from last year.
- e. Voices didn't have anything to report.

10. COMMUNITY ISSUES, LIAISONS, AND COORDINATORS

Commissioners to provide brief updates or ideas on the following:

- a. Association of California Commissions for Women (ACCW) did not have anything to report.
- b. Human Trafficking Task Force might be tabling at the Human Race.
- c. The Legislative Advisory Group reported that Governor Newsom will introduce legislation to change the government code having to do with civil assessment on traffic tickets. Commissioner Brown will craft a letter in support of this because it relates to women and children, especially low-income families.
- d. National Association of Commissions for Women (NACW) is having a conference in Reno, Nevada on July 24-28, 2022. They are looking for presenters.
- e. YWCA is looking for volunteers to work in their Treasure House for 4 hour shifts twice a month.

11. AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT COMMISSION MEETING

12. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 8:05M