

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

---

**Thursday, April 11, 2024**

**6:00 PM**

**Hybrid Meeting**

---

**Commissioners Present:**

**First District:** Joanne M. Brown (OAL), Nancy Padian

**Third District:** Ana Diaz-Garcia\*, Melanie Jones-Carter (Vice-Chair)

**Fourth District:** Gina Fortino Dickson (Chair), Letitia Hanke

**Fifth District:** Jessica Wood, Zobida McCorquodale

**Commissioners Absent:**

**Second District:** Katie Gordon (Leave of absence), Julie Shulman, Rebecca Kaykas-Wolff

**Third District:** Ofra Isler

**Fifth District:** Angie Dillon-Shore

**\*Commissioner Diaz-Garcia left early at approximately 6:30pm.**

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

**1. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL**

Meeting called to order at approximately 6:03 p.m. Roll call taken

**2. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

Vice-Chair Jones-Carter read the Land acknowledgement.

**3. PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDIZED ITEMS**

No Public Comment.

**4. THE BROWN ACT PRESENTATION**

Chair Fortino Dickson led the discussion on the Brown Act using slides provided by County Counsel. The presentation focused on teleconferencing and social media requirements. Commissioners had a number of questions which will be sent to County Counsel for clarification. The questions on the definition of quorum for ad hoc meetings and communications between Officers and the Commission as a whole.

**5. JUVENILE PRESENTATION**

This presentation on the programming for girls housed at the Juvenile Hall will be rescheduled for a future meeting.

**6. APPROVAL OF MARCH 14, 2024 MEETING MINUTES**

Motion to approve the March 14, 2024 meeting minutes.

No Public Comment.

Motion: Commissioner Brown  
Second: Commissioner Padian

Ayes: 6  
Absent: 5

Noes: 0  
Abstained: 2

Commissioners Shulman, Kaykas-Wolff, Isler, Dillon-Shore were absent.  
Commissioner Gordon is on leave of absence. Commissioner Hanke abstained.  
Chair Fortino Dickson abstained as Chair. Motion passed.

## **7. OFFICER REPORTS AND ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATES**

- a. Chair Fortino Dickson announced that she will be at the Gemma Project Event on April 24th at 6pm at Sonoma State University in the student center to introduce the author.
- b. Chair Fortino Dickson and Commissioner Diaz-Garcia shared information about the Rollin' Rosies 3rd Annual Mother's Day Poker Run and Car Show on May 11th ending in Cotati at La Plaza Park from 2pm-6pm.

## **8. COMMISSIONER ANNOUNCEMENT**

- a. Commissioner Padian accompanied representatives from Planned Parenthood to their Lobbying Day at the state Capitol focusing on four Bills that related to reproductive health. In order to support women's rights to reproductive health in CA, Planned Parenthood encouraged the Commission to spread message to get out to vote including training Commissioners to register people to vote.
- b. Commissioner Diaz-Garcia attended to the Moorland Action Group- Moorland Neighborhood group that that focuses specifically on the Moreland neighborhood that is in Southwest Santa Rosa. She promoted the Spirit Award and the Junior Commission Project. She visited Roseland Prep and Elsie Allen High School to provide information about the Junior Commission.
- c. Commissioner Brown presented at Impact 100 in Sonoma Valley about the mission and work of the Commission. Most of them were uninformed about CSW. There was one lady who was on their Board who was in County government when the ordinance was first passed. Commissioner Brown asked their help to promote the Junior Commission and including helping with transportation as it may impose to some high school students from participating.
- d. Vice Chair Jones-Carter met with Supervisor Coursey and informed him about the Spirit Award, and he was already informed. She was advised that the Commission should send the Board of Supervisors information about things that they hear about, or have concerns about, so that then the Board can be informed and consider these concerns.

## **9. OPENINGS AND APPOINTMENTS**

- a. Chair Fortino Dickson introduced Commissioner Letitia Hanke by highlighting that she was the 2021 Sonoma County Woman of the Year, by Congressman Thompson, the 2022 influential woman of the year by North Bay Business Journal, and 2023 Spirit Award. She had been sworn in by Supervisor Gore.
- b. Currently there are one opening in the 1st district and one opening in the 4th district. Supervisor Gorin will be appointing a new Commissioner the end of April.

## **AD HOC AND PROJECT UPDATES**

- c. The Voices Report Ad Hoc submitted Facebook post for the whole month. They will be boosted, no Instagram posts as yet. The 2023 Report on the Status of Women in Sonoma County report will be printed for those who request a printed version of the report.
- d. The Reproductive Rights Ad Hoc partnering with the Junior Commission ad hoc is preparing a video about contraception and reproductive health based on numerous interviews of youth and adults in the county.
- e. The Junior Commission Educational Project's annual career panel is scheduled for Saturday, April 13th. They will have 6 speakers including Dr. Nancy Padian and Zobida McCorquodale and a celebrity guest speaker. Graduation is on Saturday, May 18th in person at 2pm and everyone is welcome. Interviews for Junior Commission 2024-2025 are scheduled for the end of April and Commissioner Isler asked for help from CSW to interview the applicants.
- f. The Legislative Advisory Group is still waiting for the Women's Legislative Women's Committee to provide them a list of their Bills for 2024-2025 and they will review the four Bills that Planned Parenthood is promoting as well.
- g. Community Engagement Working Group has 11 nominations and still need nominations from District 4 for the 2024 Spirit Award. They will be purchasing items for tabling and outreach. They need volunteers for Pride on June 1, 2024 to table and march in the parade, for Cinco de Mayo Festival on May 5<sup>th</sup>, and for Community Resource Fair April 27th 11-4pm. Vice Chair Jones-Carter will create a sign-up sheet to volunteer. The Spirit Award Ceremony will follow the Commission's June 13th meeting at the Museum of Sonoma County.

## **10. BUSINESS ITEMS**

- a. Vice-Chair Jones-Carter led a training on tabling. She handed out a cheat sheet to use while doing outreach and tabling. Vice-Chair Jones-Carter and Commissioner Wood role played to show examples of what to say while tabling.

**11. AGENDA ITEMS FOR APRIL 11, 2024 COMMISSION MEETING**

- a. Budget
- b. All ad hocs are asked to review their budgets and determine what they will spend in the next two months and what might revert to the CSW general fund for the use by other ad hocs.

**12. ADJOURNMENT**

This meeting was adjourned at 7:22 p.m.