

**Minutes of Regular Meeting  
January 4, 2006**

**I. Call to Order and Roll Call**

- A.** Chair Brooks called the regularly scheduled meeting of the Commission for Women to order at 5:00 pm. The meeting was held at Pea Soup Andersens, and was wheel chair accessible. Roll call followed and it was determined that a quorum was present.

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT**

**COMMISSIONERS ABSENT**

**First District: (One Vacancy)**

Julia Springer

Cynthia Thurber (excused)

**Second District: (No Vacancies)**

Magdalena Torres

Katie Miersemann

Sr. Alicia Martin

**Third District: (No Vacancies)**

Marell Brooks

Kelley Kaufman

Janine Blum

**Fourth District: (No Vacancies)**

Alice Downs

Phil Moore (unexcused)

Sarah Strickland (excused)

**Fifth District: (Two Vacancies)**

Jean Rath

**Staff:**

Sheila Cirillo, Staff

**B. Welcome and Introductions of Commissioners and Staff****C. Public Comment**

No Public Comment.

**II. Regular Business**

A. Approval of December 2005, Meeting Minutes, motioned by Commissioner Blum, seconded by Commissioner Kaufman. Motion carried.

**B. Announcements**

Commissioner Miersemann announced that January 23<sup>rd</sup> is the Roe v. Wade anniversary event, put on by the Pro-Choice Coalition. It will be held at 5:30 at the Faulkner Gallery in Santa Barbara, and the public is invited. The speaker will be Maggie Crosby.

**C. Accept Oral Report from Chair Brooks**

Chair Brooks announced that Vicki Atwood of the State's Commission for Women office sends emails regularly to her and if anyone is interested in keeping informed of what's going on at the state level, to let her know and she will tell them how to get on her email list. Atwood recently announced she will be retiring, and her replacement has not yet been named. Also, the CFW website has been updated and all are encouraged to contribute or update as the need arises, by contacting the office.

**D. Accept, Discuss & Act: Panel Discussions**

The Commission should be thinking about their next panel discussion, possibly targeted for April or May. Commissioner Miersemann suggested a forum/panel discussion surrounding finances; i.e. planning for retirement, children's college education, etc. The idea was embraced by all commissioners and will be discussed in more detail after March and the Women's History Month celebration. The Commission will get in touch with the Santa Barbara AAUW to see about the possibility of them co-sponsoring.

**E. Accept, Discuss & Act: Women's Economic Justice Project**

Chair Brooks relayed that Commissioner Torres has been named co-Chair of the fourth annual WEJP Conference in March and made an appeal to fellow commissioners that if they belong to another like-minded group and thought they might be willing to donate to the event, there are forms available for circulation. Chair Brooks and Commissioner Down are also working on the conference. Participation among commissioners for the day of the event was also solicited.

Last year the CFW made a donation in the form of an ad in their program, and the office will look into what monies might be available for such a donation this year.

If adequate monies are available, a motion was made by Commissioner Miersemann to give WEJP \$1000, seconded by Commissioner Torres, contingent on the budget allowing for the expense. Abstained by Kaufman. [As an aside, the sponsorship deadline for printing purposes is March 1<sup>st</sup>.]

There was discussion regarding the Commission for Women setting up a table at the event, with CFW information (i.e. Resource Directory), and a motion for this – which includes a \$25 fee – was made by Commissioner Down, seconded by Commissioner Torres; the motion carried.

**F. Accept, Discuss & Act: Legislation Reports on Issues****Family Planning:**

Commissioner Miersemann reported that the state *Violence Against Women Act* passed.

**Education:**

Commissioner Down had no report.

**Healthcare:**

Commissioner Thurber was not present, but all Commissioners expressed gratitude for presence of Peter Conn, the December CFW invited speaker, who spoke on the *Healthcare For All* bill, SB 840.

**G. Accept, Discuss & Act: Meetings with Supervisors**

Commissioner Down reported that she'd received word from Supervisor Gray that Napa County had disbanded their Commission for Women.

**H. Accept, Discuss & Act: Women's History Month**

Commissioner Martin read a press release she'd written for the annual CFW Service Awards, and solicited input. The commission will consider nominations from the public, Supervisors, as well as those organizations whose work they are familiar with. Possible criteria for nominations were discussed. At next month's meeting it will be decided by each district which organization they will honor. Any group or organization that is nominated, but not given the service award, will be sent a letter of recognition. A request for putting the event on the Board Agenda will be for March 7<sup>th</sup>, and will be followed by a small reception in the Board of Supervisors Conference Room.

**I. Accept, Discuss & Act: Other Business**

Chair Brooks discussed the Pro-Choice Coalition ad, and a motion by Commissioner Mierseemann was made to donate \$25, seconded by Commissioner Kaufman; Commissioner Martin and Commissioner Blum, abstained.

Chair Brooks relayed that Vice-Chair Thurber has asked to step down as VC, and nominations were taken to replace her. Commissioner Torres nominated Commissioner Martin, seconded by Commissioner Blum; the motion passed unanimously.

**J. Agenda Items for February Meeting**

- Women's History Month Service Awards Recognition
- Women's Economic Justice Project
- Budget Review

**III. Adjournment**

**Moved by Commissioner Springer, seconded by Commissioner Blum to adjourn the Commission for Women meeting at 6:25 pm. Motion passed unanimously.**

**The next regularly scheduled meeting will be February 1, 2006, at 5:00 pm, at Pea Soup Andersens.**

Respectfully submitted,

Sheila Cirillo