

**Minutes of Regular Meeting
March 1, 2006**

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

- A. Chair Brooks called the regularly scheduled meeting of the Commission for Women to order at 5:10 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

Sr. Alicia Martin

Katie Miersemann (excused)

Third District: (No Vacancies)

Marell Brooks

Kelley Kaufman

Janine Blum

Fourth District: (One Vacancy)

Sarah Strickland

Alice Down (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 February 2006, Meeting Minutes, motioned by Commissioner Kaufman, seconded by Commissioner Martin. Motion carried.

B. Announcements

Chair Brooks reminded commissioners that this is Women's History Month and the Commission's presentation before the board is set for 11:00 am next Tuesday, March 7th. Commissioner Springer announced that Planned Parenthood is having their annual dinner on March 23rd at the Doubletree, with Judy Collins as the guest speaker. Commissioner Torres announced that the Women's Political Committee is having their President's Dinner on Friday, March 17th at Mar Monte; the Women's Literary Festival is this coming Saturday, March 4th at the Doubletree, and the Women's Economic Justice Project the following Saturday, March 11th at UCSB.

C. Accept Oral Report from Chair Brooks

Chair Brooks related that Commissioner Miereseemann attended a meeting of a new group forming a Central Coast task force and they are interested in collaborations with the Commission regarding public forums as well as discussing additional collaborations on projects that will benefit and empower women.

D. Accept, Discuss & Act: Women's History Month Recognition

Details for the annual recognition were discussed, with all Commissioners encouraged to be at the County Administration building by 10:30. The Friends' of the Commission for Women are providing the lunch and dessert, Commissioners will provide beverages.

E. Accept, Discuss & Act: Legislative Questions for County Counsel

Chair Brooks reminded Commissioners that Maria Novatt, from County Counsel, would be at next month's meeting to clarify the position the Commission can take on legislative issues. Some possible questions were discussed, with the following decided upon:

- 1) How can the commission become involved in legislative items?
- 2) What constitutes a "position" for the Board?
- 3) What are the adopted positions the Board has taken on various issues—in particular issues relevant to women?
- 4) What can and can't the Commission do to support an issue, particularly a controversial issue?

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

Commissioner Torres has been attending the meetings and said that as regards their upcoming event on March 11th, they were grateful for the Commission's monetary donation and encouraged more volunteers. Maricela Morales, who facilitated the CFW retreat last summer, will be the keynote speaker. Commissioner Torres also shared that the Commission has an opportunity to speak to the Latino population on local radio station to get the word out about the different events the Commission takes part in. Commissioner Miereseemann will be "woman"-ning the table at the event on behalf of the Commission.

G. Accept, Discuss & Act: Legislation Reports on Issues

Family Planning:

Commissioner Miersemann was not present, but Commissioner Springer promised to bring information regarding a recent news conference on reproductive health; the statistics for California showed that the state is doing a good job overall in serving women.

Education:

Commissioner Down had no report, but Chair Brooks said there was talk of reducing Title 9 and that she would try to find out more about this.

Healthcare:

Commissioner Thurber was not present, but Commissioner Springer brought up cutbacks in Medicare funds, with Commissioner Blum sharing a personal story.

G. Accept, Discuss & Act: Meetings with Supervisors

Commissioner Kaufman shared that she contacted Supervisor Centeno's office regarding Commission vacancies in the fifth district, and was told that they were aware of them.

I. Accept, Discuss & Act: Other Business

Commissioner Strickland attended the State Quarterly meeting and distributed handouts she collected and spoke about what she learned. She said it was interesting to hear what other commissions were doing and that they were planning another conference for next year and looking for a commission to host. A planning retreat will be held in Pacific Grove in May.

a. Agenda Items for April Meeting

- Legislative Questions for Maria Novatt, County Counsel
- Policy Statement
- Public Forum Ideas/Collaborations
- Fund For Women (Springer)

III. Adjournment

Moved by Commissioner Torres, seconded by Commissioner Blum to adjourn the Commission for Women meeting at 6:30 pm. Motion passed unanimously.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Sheila Cirillo