

**Minutes of Regular Meeting  
October 3, 2007**

**I. Call to Order**

**A. Roll Call**

Chair Brooks called the meeting to order at 5:20 PM. The meeting was held at the Women's Club in Solvang and was wheel chair accessible. Roll call followed and it was determined that a quorum was present.

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT**

**First District: (One Vacancies)**

Monique Limon

**Second District: (No Vacancies)**

Dr. Rotnofsky

Sr. Alicia Martin

Magdalena Torres

**Third District: (One Vacancy)**

Marell Brooks

Janine Blum

**Fourth District: (One Vacancy)**

Carmen Chavez

Jennifer Dolan

**Fifth District: (One Vacancy)**

Harriet Tower

**COMMISSIONERS ABSENT**

Brandy Armenta (excused)

Marina Gordon (unexcused)

**Staff:**

Ariana Villegas, EEO Manager

Amber Lloyd, EEO Assistant

**Guests:**

Stacy Shephard, Friends of the Commission

**B. Welcome and Introductions of Commissioners and Guests**

Chair Brooks welcomed everyone present which was followed by a brief introduction by all.

**C. Public Comment**

No public comment.

**II. Regular Business**

**A. Approve: July 2007 Meeting Minutes**

**Commissioner Blum made the motion to approve the minutes of the July meeting. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Martin. There was no discussion. Commissioner Rotnofsky abstained. Motion was carried.**

**B. Announcements:**

1. Commissioner Rotnofsky announced SoHo will be holding a fundraising event for Suicide and Violence Prevention. The cost is \$35.

2. Commissioner Rotnofsky discussed the article regarding the current debate regarding the bridge and the suicide prevention barrier. Research shows signs can prevent suicide, but a professor from UCSB has a self-published research paper which proves otherwise and demonstrates a biased standpoint. The fight for signs and possibly a suicide rail will continue.

3. The Santa Maria Women's Health Fair is being sponsored by the American Association of University Women. It will be held on Saturday, October 13<sup>th</sup> from 9am-12pm. \$5 admission fee which can be waived.

**C. Special Guest: Stacy Shephard, Friends of the Commission**

Friends of the Commission is available for assistance on Commission activities and would like to receive input on fundraising ideas from the CFW. Susan Rose has offered to hold an event at her home. Other venues can also be explored for future events such as event speakers, Women's History Month Luncheon, or the Women's Tea.

Subcommittees can be formed so both the CFW and Friends of the Commission can work closely on planning. Friends of the Commission can do all the necessary work as they exist to provide support to the CFW.

Friends of the CFW would like to see the CFW raise \$5,000-\$10,000 within the next year to help women returning to the US from war. Commissioner Blum suggested we ask the women returning from war what needs they may have. Chair Brooks reminded the Commissioners next month's speaker, Rhonda Murphy, represents the Veteran female population and will be discussing such issues.

**D. Accept Oral Report: Chair – Brooks**

Chair Brooks requested Commissioner Tower to discuss the phone call she received from Jack Boysen, 5<sup>th</sup> District BOS office. Mr. Boysen questioned the CFW characterizing the BOS as opponents during the June 2007 CFW retreat. Commissioner Tower drafted a letter to the BOS clarifying terminology and presented the letter to the CFW.

**Motion was made by Commissioner Tower to send the proposed draft to Supervisor Centeno's office. Commissioner Martin seconded the motion.**

Commissioners discussed the draft and decided the terminology of the draft needed to be changed.

**Commissioner Martin amended the motion to accept the concept of the letter and to incorporate the suggestions from tonight's discussion into a final draft. Commissioner Tower seconded the motion. Motion was carried.**

**Commissioner Tower proposed the motion that for future retreats, the CFW will send the Board of Supervisors the action plan which is the outcome of the retreat. Commissioner Blum seconded the motion. Motion was carried.**

Chair Brooks attended the quarterly ACCW meeting in San Francisco. ACCW discussed how their commission uses the Convention to Eliminate Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) as a basis of their work. The United States is one of five countries who have not accepted CEDAW. The ACCW will be holding a meeting on November 2<sup>nd</sup> from 9am-3pm in Santa Monica.

**Action Item: If Commissioners would like to attend and carpool to the November meeting they will contact Chair Brooks.**

- E. Review, Discuss & Act: AAUW Interbranch Luncheon-All**  
The AAUW will be holding the Interbranch Luncheon on Saturday, February 16, 2008. They would like the CFW to present from 30-45 minutes at the luncheon. Chair Brooks, Commissioner Torres and Commissioner Tower will be present at the event. Commissioner Tower will most likely be unable to present as she is President of AAUW. Commissioners Dolan and Martin might be able to attend. The presentation will begin with the annual report and the CFW will participate in a panel discussion for the luncheon.
- F. Review, Discuss & Act: Rotarians in Action Project-All**  
Commissioner Martin provided an updated and stated she connected Lloyd Young with other local agencies that can utilize the services being offered by this organization.  
**Action Item: Staff will ensure a thank you letter was sent to Mr. Young for presenting at the CFW meeting.**
- G. Review, Discuss & Act: WEJP-All**  
No information has been received and the CFW wasn't certain of the conference update.  
**Action Item: Chair Brooks will contact Maricela for information.**
- H. Review, Discuss & Act: Annual Report Draft-All**  
Chair Brooks gave thanks to Commissioner Limon for assisting with the Annual Report. Unfortunately, none of the Commissioners were available to attend the presentation to the Board of Supervisors on October 16<sup>th</sup>. Chair Brooks suggested that either staff make the presentation or the date be changed.  
**Action Item: Staff will review an alternative date with the Clerk of the Board for November 6<sup>th</sup> or 13<sup>th</sup>.**

Chair Brooks, Commissioners Tower and Dolan will present the annual report on the alternate date.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Martin to approve the annual report. Commissioner Tower seconded the motion. Motion was carried unanimously.**

**I. Review, Discuss & Act: Women and Money Conference-All**

Scholarship recipients have been determined. Staff and Chair Brooks have finalized the payments for these participants. Additional scholarships and transportation will be provided for any other interested individuals. The goal was to have 100 attendees.

**J. Review, Discuss & Act: Legislation and Public Policy Updates-All**

**1. Violence against Women: Homeless Women in Santa Barbara**

Chair Brooks reviewed an essay written by Ken Williams regarding violence against homeless women. Agencies that currently help with this issue need funding and many women and children are in need of this service. St. Vincent's can accommodate up to 30 people, but currently there are 20 applications for 5 vacancies. These agencies need more help. Roger Heroux completed a study on homelessness for Santa Barbara County. Commissioners would like more information about this cause.

**Action Item: Chair Brooks will gather information regarding this report.**

**Commissioners will be proactive on this issue and conduct research to see what programs are currently being offered.**

**Staff will remove Commissioner Torres from the subcommittee, per her request.**

**2. Women Veterans**

Commissioner Dolan distributed a handout for Operation Woman-to-Woman. The Santa Maria Valley Operation W2W is requesting supplies to be sent to military women overseas. Small boxes are more manageable and they can include items such as phone cards, chocolate, small hair brush, etc.

**Action Item: Commissioner Martin will contact Direct Relief International to obtain information regarding their efforts.**

**3. Women in Prison/Girls in Juvenile Systems**

A program exists in San Francisco which Commissioners would like to research. No other information was discussed.

**K. Review, Discuss & Act: Committee Updates-All**

**1. Public Relations**

No information to report.

**2. Events**

Friends of the Commission would like to co-host an event with the CFW in Spring 2008.

**3. Nominations**

Chair Brooks reminded the CFW that Service awards are coming up. Commissioner Limon requested time be allotted during next month's meeting to review criteria for these awards. Nominations will be held in December.

Commissioner Tower received information that 2 women applied for the 5<sup>th</sup> District vacant position. Commissioner Gordon will now be removed from the CFW.

Commissioner Dolan asked for input regarding monolingual Spanish speaking applicants. Commissioner Limon volunteered to translate during monthly meetings. Commissioner Blum felt strongly that all Commissioners speak English and would not want a monolingual Commissioner, even if Commissioner Limon were to translate. After a lengthy discussion the CFW agreed to encourage such an applicant to achieve greater diversity on the CFW.

**Action Item: Staff will add setting the criteria for Service Awards to next month's agenda.**

**Staff will follow up on the official removal of Commissioner Gordon.**

**L. Meetings with Supervisors-All**

Commissioner Blum met with Supervisor Firestone. They discussed the appointment of Mr. Jackson to the Planning Commission.

Commissioner Martin saw Supervisor Wolf at a local fundraiser. Supervisor Wolf was injured in an accident, but she is recuperating and doing well. She would like to attend a future CFW meeting.

**M. Other Business-All**

Commissioner Chavez stated she regrettably has to resign from her position. Her duties as a school principal are taking up all of her time. It has been an honor and pleasure for Commissioner Chavez to serve on the CFW and she would like still like to receive information regarding upcoming CFW events.

Commissioner Torres requested an email be sent to her a day before the CFW meeting as a reminder.

Commissioner Chavez reported the Great American Write-In event was a great experience and opportunity for the CFW. People were able to sign for causes that are in the interest of women.

Staff reminded the CFW that resource guides need to be reviewed and the option of a reorder needs to be discussed. Chair Brooks suggested it be added to next month's agenda.

Commissioner Martin will send information out to the CFW regarding a breakfast being held this Friday at 8:30am to support the fight against domestic violence.

Commissioner Martin stated that Biz Buzz will be holding an event in Lompoc. It would be a good idea for the CFW to have a booth at this event. She will email the information to the CFW.

**N. Agenda Items-All**

- i. Nominations
- ii. Guest speaker-Rhonda Murphy
- iii. Resource Guides

**III. Adjourn**

**Motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Torres. Seconded by Commissioner Limon. There was no discussion. Motion was carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 6:51 PM.** The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on November 7, 2007, at the Women's Club in Solvang.

Respectfully submitted,  
Amber Lloyd