

**Minutes of Regular Meeting
November 1st 2006**

I. Call to Order

A. Roll Call

Chair Martin called the regularly scheduled meeting of the Commission for Women to order at 5:07pm. The meeting was held at the Women's Club of Solvang, 533 Atterdaag Road, Solvang, CA and was wheel chair accessible. Roll call followed and it was determined that a quorum was present.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

First District: (No Vacancies)

Julia Springer

Second District: (No Vacancies)

Sr. Alicia Martin
Magdalena Torres

Third District: (No Vacancies)

Marell Brooks
Kelley Kaufman

Fourth District: (Two Vacancies)

Carmen Chavez

Fifth District: (Two Vacancies)

Marina Gordon

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT

Monique Limon (excused)
Brandy Armenta (excused)

Katie Miersemann (excused)

Janine Blum (unexcused)

Staff:

Ariana Villegas, EEO Manager
Shen Rajan, Staff

B. Welcome and Introductions of Commissioners and Guests

Chair Martin welcomed Commissioners and staff. Theresa Duer, Deputy HR Director, represented HR Director Sue Paul, who was unable to attend the meeting due to a scheduling conflict.

C. Public Comment

No public comment

II. Regular Business

A. Approve: October 2006, Meeting Minutes

Motion was made to approve October 2006, Meeting Minutes, by Commissioner Springer, seconded by Commissioner Kaufman. No abstentions. Motion was carried unanimously.

B. Announcements

- a. Commissioner Brooks will be attending the State CFW quarterly meeting in Santa Rosa this weekend.
- b. Women's Conference in Ventura on November 17th. None of the commissioners plan on attending this event thus far.
- c. Commissioner Kaufman requested that staff include "minutes and agenda" in subject line of e-mail when sent out.

C. Accept Oral Report: Chair – Martin

Chair Martin thanked Commissioners Kaufman, Springer and others for their comments and work in consolidating information for presenting to the BOS.

D. Commission Merge Update-All

Chair Martin wanted to know what made the BOS include the CFW in the merge, as she felt that it was sudden and unexpected. Other Commissioners felt that perhaps the CFW was thrown in as an after-thought, as the possibility of a merge between the HRC and AAC had been on the agenda. Commissioners felt that the CFW is scrutinized often, and that they had just been through this process a few months ago. They felt that they were in the position of having to justify their purpose every year.

EEO Manager Villegas encapsulated that the idea was discussed at the budget meeting by the BOS. AAC and HRC had quorum challenges and it was felt by the BOS that their charge was in need of an update. Staff met with these commissions over the past few months to discuss the potential merger. In early October, staff was informed that the BOS Chair and Vice Chair wanted the CFW to be included in the research of the potential merger. No specific reason was provided. Thus, a possible merger might invigorate a new body and charge that would encompass the vision of all three commissions. Staff was asked to look at this possibility and present the findings to the BOS.

Commissioners discussed the idea of the merge and the following concerns were presented.

- CFW's mission statement and charge is gender specific and would be lost in a possible merge.
- CFW is very clear about their mission and their goals.
- Women's issues are not clearly represented by any other Commissions and would be sidelined if amalgamated with other commissions and their charges. This would be a dis-service to the women in the county.
- Would be a "step back" if group was merged.

- BOS would be sending a regressive message to women and their specific issues.
- Financial resources used by CFW are minimal.
- It is good to re-evaluate things from time to time, but perhaps it could be done as a “review” of the commission and its’ work, as opposed to wanting a merger.
- BOS has not been diligent in filling vacancies.
- Looking at the vacancies and mission statements of the other commissions, it seems offensive that CFW is included in this study when it has proved to be active and accomplished many tasks.
- Felt sidelined with the possible merge “coming out of nowhere” and feel like their energies are now focused on defending the commission instead of continuing with their goals.
- Did not see how a Commission with a very specific focus would be able to align itself with other Commissions that were broader in their spectrum.
- CFW is fully seated and does not have quorum challenges.
- The reorganization process could take up to a year. CFW is concerned about the resources spent on this action alone.

All Commissioners want to remain as CFW and continue with their current charge and mission. However, a discussion followed and elements were discussed that were important to the Commissioners which should be preserved if they were to be merged.

- 1) Strategic plan preserved.
- 2) Mission statement, with women’s issues specifically mentioned in reference to “women in need”. This is defined as “unequal social, economic and health status”.
- 3) Emphasis on women’s issues being salient.
- 4) Half or more of the Commission being female and to maintain ability to organized events specific to women.
- 5) Maintain a close relationship with Friends of the Commission of Women.
- 6) Continue to sponsor Community Forums on Women’s issues.
- 7) Continue to produce women’s Resource guide.
- 8) Legislative focus on family planning, healthcare and hot topics.
- 9) Preserve monthly meetings.
- 10) Preserve annual activities such as:
 - a. Collaboration with Women’s Economic Justice Project
 - b. Women’s History Month
- 11) BOS guarantee to fill appointments and future vacancies immediately.

Action item: Staff needs to look into costs to televise upcoming forums with GATV
Action item: Staff needs to create and distribute Press releases for the newspapers regarding advertising upcoming public forums.

E.

Agenda items for next meeting

- a. Discuss merger update and status of CFW
- b. Finalize CFW workplan

III. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn made by Commissioner Kaufman. Seconded by Commissioner Gordon. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7.03 pm.

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on December 6th 2006 at The Women's Club of Solvang, 533 Atterdaag Road, Solvang, CA 93463

Respectfully submitted,
Shen Rajan