

**Minutes of Regular Meeting
December 7, 2005**

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
Sarah Strickland

Phil Moore

Fifth District: (Two Vacancies)

Jean Rath

Staff:

Sheila Cirillo, Staff
Ariana Villegas, Staff

Guests:

Emily Ortega, Women's Economic Justice Project
Peter and Pauline Conn, Healthcare for All.

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

No Public Comment.

II. Regular Business

- A. Approval of October 2005, Meeting Minutes, motioned by Commissioner Down, seconded by Commissioner Kaufman. Motion carried.

B. Announcements

- Commissioner Martin reported on the Governor's Conference. She was impressed with the caliber of speakers and the general organization of the event itself. Commissioner Miersemann also attended and felt similarly; expressed the hope that next year the Commission could send more women.
- Commissioner Miersemann announced that January 23rd is the Roe v. Wade anniversary event, put on by the Pro-Choice Coalition.
- Commissioner Torres announced March 4th will be the Literary Festival, promoting Diversity, Equity and Social Justice, at Fess Parker's Doubletree, both Torres and Chair Brooks will be participating and all are welcome to attend.
- Staff member Cirillo announced that staff member Villegas will take over as Interim Equal Opportunity Manager, effective immediately.
- Staff member Villegas spoke of the updated CFW website.

C. Accept Oral Report from Chair Brooks

Chair Brooks announced that the Friends' Tea in October was a big success and they now must look to the Women's History Month event in March. She also relayed that if the Commission wishes to influence legislation, they should look to someone from the County's legislative office to attend a meeting and guide them in how they proceed.

She also attended the North County Rape Crisis Center dinner and said it was a nice event and their main fundraiser of the year.

D. Accept, Discuss & Act: Panel Discussions

The Commission collaborated with AAUW in Lompoc and had four speakers on their first public forum and it was simple yet effective and well-received. Commissioner Strickland distributed a survey during the forum and gleaned some useful information that the Commission can use in planning future public forums, as well as in their determining the needs of County area women. Chair Brooks emphasized how advantageous it is to collaborate with other groups on these types of public outreach.

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

Chair Brooks introduced Emily Ortega, who works with the WEJP, and she gave a brief overview of her experience with social justice issues and her involvement with the WEJP. The WEJP will be holding their fourth annual Conference in March this year and are hopeful the CFW will again be involved, as well as looking for sponsorship in the form of a financial donation. The theme this year is "Transforming Ourselves, Transforming Our Communities." They will be focusing on personal issues that affect women: reproductive rights, childcare, domestic violence, etc. She discussed some of the group's plans for speakers and the logistics of the event itself.

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

Commissioner Miersemann reported that the State Commission for Women had a final report for the year including the bills that were priorities for them. She discussed the weight given to the bill that deals with family planning, such as SB 644.

Education:

Commissioner Down rescinded her report to the Conn's, a couple who gave a presentation on *Healthcare For All*.

Healthcare:

Peter Conn, the CFW invited speaker, spoke on the *Healthcare For All* bill, SB 840, which he and his wife Pauline, have given their time and attention to. He gave a thorough explanation of SB 840 and took questions from Commissioners, followed by a brief video.

G. Accept, Discuss & Act: Meetings with Supervisors

There were no commissioner reports this month.

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

Commissioner Martin encouraged Commissioners to come to next month's meeting with suggestions for nominations so that letters can go out in February. The Commissioners will keep in touch via email between now and the January meeting. It is the hope that the event will take place March 7th and also that it will be followed by a small reception in the Board of Supervisors Conference Room, as was done last year.

I. Accept, Discuss & Act: Other Business

Chair Brooks relayed that Commissioner and Vice-Chair Thurber would like to relinquish her role as Vice-Chair. The offer of someone else stepping into that role will be decided at the January meeting and will be drawn from South County, as Chair Brooks is from North County.

J. Agenda Items for January Meeting

- Legislation reports
- Women's Economic Justice Project/Budget Review/Volunteers
- Collaborations
- Women's History Month

III. Adjournment

Moved by Commissioner Down, seconded by Commissioner Miersemann to adjourn the Commission for Women meeting at 6:45 pm. Motion passed unanimously.

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be January 4, 2006, at 5:00 pm, at Pea Soup Andersens.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheila Cirillo