



**Minutes of the Regular Meeting Commission for Women (CFW)
February 1, 2017**

I. Call to order

- A. **Roll Call:** Chair Teresa Reyburn called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m. The meeting was held at City Hall/Council Chambers, City of Solvang, and was wheelchair accessible. Roll call followed and it was determined that a quorum was present.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

First District (two vacancies)

Victoria Juarez

Second District (no vacancies)

Suzanne Peck

Anna Everett (Vice Chair)

Sigrid Wright

Third District (no vacancies)

Marianne Partridge

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT

Tracy Beard

Fran Clow

Fourth District (3 vacancies)

Fifth District (1 vacancy)

Teresa Reyburn (Chair)

Heidi Summers

Yleana Velasco

Public Comment – there was no public comment

- B. **Guest:** Assistant CEO Terri Nisich and County Counsel Jerry Czuleger attended.

C. **Regular Business:**

- Approve Minutes from January 4, 2017 Regular Meeting. Commissioner Partridge made a motion to accept the minutes. This was seconded by Commissioner Everett and passed unanimously.
- There was discussion about the Executive Committee. It is made up of the Chair, Vice Chair and 3 other Commissioners recommended by the Vice Chair. Commissioners asked Ms. Foley to research the general tasks or activities of this committee.
- Ms. Nisich and Mr. Czuleger attended the meeting to discuss two items: 1) the County Policy on Political Activity, and 2) the County Code of Ethics (FORM 700) requirements. Ms. Nisich said the County will be putting on training for all boards and commissions at a later date and will prepare a manual to guide the boards and commissions on policy and protocol. She noted that the County of Santa Barbara has more boards and commissions than any other county in the state. The purpose of the County's policy on Political Activity (handed out) is to ensure that County staff, boards and commissions are sensitive to the views of all County residents/business persons/nonprofits etc. She said to remember to be apolitical yet politically aware. She reviewed key guidelines which basically state that employees and commissioners



should not initiate or be involved in political events or activities on County time or represent any political event as a Commissioner. She said it is acceptable for the CFW to bring any item to the attention of the Board of Supervisors and recommend taking a position on an item and it would then be up to the Board to decide. She handed out a list of “Do’s and Don’ts” to serve as a guide. She also said that Commissioners should not ask staff to forward information to other commissioners. If you want them to have information email or send to them directly and make sure to note that no one should respond (start a conversation) or they risk violating the Brown Act. Clearly all can participate in any political activity on your own time. There was a discussion if a political issue or concern comes up at a public CFW meeting. County Counsel advises to just take the concern in and even show it logged in but and don’t get into a dialogue. Mr. Czuleger (County Counsel) also reminded Commissioners that all sign-in sheets for events must note that signing in is voluntary per Brown Act.

Mr. Czuleger went over the County code of ethics documents being recommended for adoption by the CFW. Since the CFW makes decisions about activities funded by the County he believes the Commissioners should have a code and file an annual FINANCIAL disclosure with the County (all done electronically). There was a great deal of discussion about this and concern that some CFW members are not comfortable with filing such a disclosure and don’t agree that they make decisions but rather that the BOS makes the decisions. It was agreed that we would discuss this again at a later date. The code is to disclose direct financial conflicts with the work/decisions of Commissioners. For instance, if you own stock in Starbucks and we purchase coffee/food from that vendor for our events. It is basically about what stock/mutual funds Commissioners might own that the County money goes toward. Ms. Foley stated that the other Commission she staffs for Human Services all fill out the disclosures. However those members generally always write N/A on their annual forms.

A. Committee Reports:

- a. Executive Committee – no meeting was held; discussed at the beginning of the meeting.
- b. South and North County leadership projects - South County committee continues to meet to work on the March 9th public forum event. Elena Richardson with the Fund for Santa Barbara is assisting with organizing for the event which is confirmed for 5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. at the Falkner. Speakers are being arranged for the event and will have 1-2 minutes each to introduce themselves and their organization. The event will be to listen to the issues, needs and concerns of women and children and will not be a political event.

The North County event has been finalized and will take place February 23, 2017 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Santa Maria Veterans Memorial Building. The Mayor will be a speaker at the event as well as others. A “save the date” went out in January. There will be language translators in attendance. Commissioner Summers will assist with securing their attendance.

Ms. Foley asked that agendas be provided to her for the two events to post on the website in advance.

- c. Public Policy – no meeting (Commissioner Beard was absent; will provide update at March meeting).



- B. Task Force Reports:
 - a. Sexual Abuse – Commissioner Peck stated there is nothing to report except that there was a sex trafficking sting last week in Santa Barbara County.

- C. Announcements – Items must be part of the agenda prior to “noticing” the meeting in order to discuss them (per Brown Act). Ms. Foley asked that all Commissioners let her know in advance if they want to announce an event or activity and she will add it to this part of the agenda. Commissioner Reyburn reminded Commissioners of the Sock Hop Saturday, February 4, 2017 at the Vets Memorial Building. Commissioners can always email the full Commission with information (not political information), but make sure you state “DO NOT RESPOND” to anything you send due to Brown Act. Ms. Foley is being asked by County Counsel not to forward information from a Commissioner to the full Commission any longer unless it is directly related to an agenda item.

- D. Items for next meeting – Discussion South County Leadership Event; CEDAW; ACCW update?