



City & County of San Francisco
Commission on the Status of Women

25 Van Ness, Room 130, San Francisco, CA 94102 (415) 252-2570 FAX (415) 252-2575

Sonia Melara, Executive Director

MINUTES
July 24, 1997

The Regular Meeting of the Commission on the Status of Women (COSW) was held on July 24, 1997 at 25 Van Ness, Suite 70, San Francisco, CA.

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Noting that a quorum of the Commission was present, President Treskunoff Bailey called the meeting to order at 4:38 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

STAFF

President Treskunoff Bailey
Vice President Ito
Commissioner Chang
Commissioner Delgado
Commissioner Marks
Commissioner Phelps
Commissioner Saunders

Sonia Melara
Rosario Navarrette
Renee Williams
Ann Lehman
Melyssa Jo Kelly
Esther Velonza
Leatrice Miyashiro
Intern: Jana Shustack

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

m/s/c (Chang/Delgado) approved the meeting agenda.

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

m/s/c (Ito/Delgado) adopted the minutes of June 9, 1997 and June 26, 1997 with correction on June 9th minutes as follows: Under New Business: Staff Report and Recommendations Regarding Fiscal Year 1997-1998 Violence Against Women Prevention Education Grant Program: President Treskunoff Bailey statement on approval of budget. "President Treskunoff Bailey was unhappy about the allocation and rationale behind the allocations and reluctantly voted yes."

4. STAFF REPORT

Sonia Melara requested that members of the staff provide the commissioners with a description of some of the tasks in which they are involved. She then provided the Commission with her staff report highlights as follows:

- A retreat survey was handed out to commissioners with a request to fill it out (to assess their availability for a retreat to be held on a Saturday in September or October).
- An intern from Iraq has been conducting focus groups to assess the needs of middle-eastern women. We will have a report from her by the end of the summer.
- Commissioner Ito and Ms. Lehman met with Supervisor Teng on a hearing on the glass ceiling sometime this fall. This is a follow-up to an action by some women from the Department of Public Works who brought a suit against DPW regarding glass ceiling issues and discrimination issues.
- Judge Donna Little and Judge Julie Tang were invited to the August meeting to talk about the new Domestic Violence Court.
- National Association of Commissions for Women (NACW) Convention had their meeting in Phoenix. They passed several resolutions - one on welfare reform and another on insurance for battered women. When Ms. Melara receives the final resolutions, she will ask the commissioners to take a position. Ms. Melara made San Francisco's presentation about the 1998 NACW Convention. The executive committee is still in the process of deciding whether this convention will be held in San Francisco.

5. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Treskunoff Bailey asked the three new Commissioners what their areas of interests were in working with the Commission.

Commissioner Delgado stated that her interest is economic development issues and also domestic violence.

Commissioner Marks' indicated an interest in getting women equal pay.

Commissioner Saunders stated her interest in welfare reform and women's health, especially those issues affecting women of color.

President Treskunoff Bailey introduced Rebecca Prozan of the Mayor's office and asked for her input.

Rebecca Prozan stated that the mayor has asked her to regularly attend Commission meetings, to be available for input as needed. She gave her phone number - 554-6148 out to commissioners.

6. OLD BUSINESS

None.

7. NEW BUSINESS

Cross-disabled Peace and Freedom Vigil for MHONA International

Tatiana A. Kllmenko-Kostanian – Founder and Executive Director of MHONA International, a center for and by victims & survivors of violent trauma with cross-disabilities, stated that her organization is looking for speakers for the peace vigil which will be held in Golden Gate Park on Saturday, September 27, 1997 from 9 am- 5 pm. There will be a site for people, flags, flowers and art at the Music Concourse Bandstand Shell.

m/s/c (Marks/Phelps) to co-sponsor cross-disabled peace & freedom vigil for MHONA International.

Approve resolution commending Dr. Sandra Hernandez's work.

m/s/c (Chang/Marks) to approve the resolution commending Dr. Sandra Hernandez's work on behalf of women.

8. REPORTS

Women Who Make A Difference Report

Commissioner Phelps reminded everyone of the Women Who Make A Difference Awards Ceremony on August 14, 1997 from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. in the Green Room of the War Memorial Building. Assemblywoman Jackie Speier will be the keynote speaker and there will be four individual awards, one business and one special award for a non-profit.

Adult Sexual Assault Task Force

Commissioner Chang stated that the Adult Sexual Assault Task Force that Rosario Navarrette is working on, is a citywide response to sexual assault. The people who have worked on this have come up with three areas that need developing. One is criminal justice system which includes the police, district attorney, victim witness, probation, courts and rape treatment services. The other is direct services which includes the Department of Public Health, S.F Women Against Rape, Department of Human Services and other community agencies. Last but not least, is prevention education, which involves the efforts of all the different partners in the city. Task Force member agencies are developing a first draft of a report for the City's vision of their coordinated response to Sexual Assault.

Sexual Harassment Position

Vice President Ito stated that Ann Lehman has informed her that the Department of Human Resources has been allocated funding for staffing of two people for the sexual harassment EEO Investigator positions. Ann Lehman stated that the two people have not been hired yet but there is a list completed. There will also be a new sexual harassment hotline that will be staffed by these two people.

Out of Sight, Out of Mind Task Force

Ann Lehman stated that the Out of Sight, Out of Mind Task Force is sponsoring two speakers on August 12 at 10 a.m., upstairs on the 8th floor. These two well-known speakers, Dr. Barbara Bloom and Dr. Barbara Owens will speak on their work on creating gender specific criteria for girls programs.

First Woman Deputy Chief

Vice President Ito announced that Melinda Pengel was promoted to Deputy Chief at the Airport – the first woman promoted to deputy chief.

NACW Convention

Sonia Melara stated that the latest information about the NACW Convention in 1998 was that the board is having second thoughts about the room rates in San Francisco. They are also considering lowering the conference fee. As an alternative to San Francisco, they are considering other cities like Nevada and Washington, D.C. They will let us know soon.

Commissioner Chang, who attended the Phoenix Convention, stated that the San Francisco COSW is a very strong commission compared to other COSWs in other cities. She feels that it would be very good for the NACW to hold the convention here. Compared to what she saw in Phoenix, we could put on a strong national issues program.

9. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

10. ADJOURNMENT

m/s/c (Phelps/Chang) to adjourn the meeting at 5.40 p.m.