*January 5, 2021*

**Meeting Minutes of the Commission on the Status of Women Meeting held on Zoom.**



Note: Please bring copies of Agenda and Minutes to meetings

1. **Call to Order**

Paulla Ufferheide called the meeting to order.

1. **Roll Call**



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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Commissioner (Initials)** | District | Present | Excused | Absent |
| Nancy Fiske (NF) | 1 | X |  |  |
| Meghan Madsen (MM) | 1 | X |  |  |
| Maria Escobedo (ME) | 1 | X |  |  |
| Paulla Ufferheide, (PU) | 2 | X |  |  |
| Dixie Walker (DW) | 2 |  | X |  |
| Paula McCambridge (PM) | 2 |  |  | X |
| Beverly Abrah Younger (AY) | 3 | X |  |  |
| Kathy Veder (KV) | 4 | X |  |  |
| Stacy Meko | 4 | X |  |  |
| Deb Geaslen | 4 | X |  |  |
| Shirley Summers | 5 | X |  |  |



1. **Guests/Introductions/Announcements**

Andrea Chmelik, one of the co-founders of the Women’s March San Luis Obispo, was a guest at the meeting, and is possibly interested in becoming a Commissioner in District 3.

1. **Public Comment Period**

None.

1. **Approval of Meeting Minutes for**

Motion to approve meeting minutes for December, 2020 was delayed. December Meeting Minutes will be approved at the February meeting.

1. **Treasurer’s Report** (SS)

Shirley Summers, Treasurer provided the current balance amounts in the following accounts.

Friends - $2793.84

SLO COSW Commission - $2301.61

Nancy Fiske noted that a January bill for printing costs of the survey, equaling $68.20, will be submitted.

Clarification of the SLO COSW budget total was made by Shirley, noting the total is $3550 (please note this was also clarified in the December 2020 minutes). Abrah, COSW Secretary, asked if a brief written version of the Treasurers Report could be provided by email. Shirley noted that it was possible.

**Treasurer’s Report continued**

A recommendation was made to consider consolidating the Friends and the SLO COSW account. No motion was made at this time. The Friends organization will make the decision regarding possible consolidation of its account with the SLO COSW account.

Motion to approve Treasurer’s Report (*SS*), second by (*AY)*. Move to file.

1. **Friends of the Commission:**

Nancy Fiske, Shirley Summers and Paulla Ufferheide met to discuss the Friends Organization. They decided to not move forward with becoming a non-profit organization and will use a fiduciary organization instead, which would be an organization that processes financial interactions.

SLO COSW is legally capable of taking donations but cannot provide the tax benefit. But, if it is not a 501(C3), it is not a tax-deductible amount. If it is a 501(C)3, Friends could donate to the Commission and those who donate would get a tax deduction.

The decision made was to not move forward with the Friends organization at this time as it would take away time and efforts of those who are also SLO COSW Commissioners. Stacy noted that there will be a need to remove the information regarding Friends on the SLO COSW website.

It was also noted that using a fiduciary sponsor was acceptable. There was a prior approval from the Board of Supervisors, that Shirley and Paulla did acquire. Paulla will need to donate the Friends funds back to SLO COSW. Shirley noted that we should involved Chris, the prior Chair of Friends. Deb noted that she had resigned so there is no need to contact Chris. Nancy Shirley and Paulla will have a meeting and the minutes will then be completed, and the Friends account will be combined. Stacy will remove the Friends information from the website.

1. **Nominations for Commission Officers (PU)**

Paulla announced that nominations for the positions of Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer and Secretary will be made by May, 2021, and elections for these positions will occur in June, 2021.

1. **Commissioner Vacancies** **(PU)**
2. District 1 – John Peschong – 0 vacancies
3. District 2 – Bruce Gibson – 0 vacancies
4. District 3 – Dawn Ortiz-Legg – 2 vacancies
5. District 4 – Lynn Compton – 0 vacancies
6. District 5 – Debbie Arnold – 2 vacancies
7. **Social Media and Other Communications** (*SM*)

Stacy noted that all of the media content is up to date. She created a blog post for COSW commissioner openings. Instructions on how to nominate someone are included. The 2020 Survey is “closed.”

1. **Action On Results of Survey (SM)**

Stacy sent an email to the CA Commission on Women and Girls requesting more information about the Equal Pay Tool Kit and how we might roll that out in SLO County. . She also requested that they provide a guest speaker for one of our meetings.

Additional action items were identified by the recent Action Committee Report, such as childcare and mental health (especially chronic sadness among teenage girls). A recommendation was made by Maria that we begin with one project to avoid taking on too much at one time. This will assure that we have the capacity to carry out these goals.

Paulla asked if the Action Committee wanted to take on the responsibility of finding speakers related to our goals. Nancy noted that she is still willing to help book speakers and will use the focus of the Action Committee to help find appropriate speakers, using the committee’s outline. The Committee had identified some resources that could be invited to speak, and Nancy could begin with these resources.

Kathy Veder moved to clarify the creation of two subcommittees of the Action Committee, who will be responsible for researching projects that can best serve the needs of women in the county, and the Survey Committee, who during 2021 will work on reformulating the survey to best extract the data we and the Board of Supervisors need to get an accurate picture of the status of women in SLO County. Stacy Meko seconded. All approved.

1. **Committee Updates/Reports (PU and SM)**

**Women’s Issues Survey Committee**

**Decision to Host Survey Biennially (every two years):** During the Survey Committee report, Paulla initiated a discussion regarding the annual survey process. A prior discussion regarding moving the survey to a biennial process, or every other year, took place. Meghan Madsen proposed and moved that the survey be a biennial process. It was noted that this may allow us more time to meet with supervisors more often. The survey could be assessed more fully for its effectiveness and impact on women, and also allow planning to use the survey results to make change. All present approved. Maria Escobedo seconded this proposal, and all approved.

Resources for supporting the survey process were discussed. Nancy Fiske noted that she knows some individuals to contact. A Cal Poly intern or Senior Project student were possible sources. Stacy Meko also noted that she has a contact at CalPoly who teaches statistics. The South County Youth Coalition recently engaged a Cal Poly intern. Stacy will follow up on the contacts and how to do this. Maria Escobedo recommended checking with the CalPoly graduate Program, and that Cuesta College also just received funding to support student research.

**Committee Updates/Reports (PU and SM) Continued**

**Women’s Issues Survey Numbers:**

Meghan noted that there was a total of 260 completed surveys in 2020.

A question was raised regarding being able to use the survey within the jails. Nancy has experience doing this in the past and can provide support. Results of the 2020 survey will be posted on the COSW website when they are ready.

1. **Board of Supervisors Agenda Highlight**

Dixie was absent (excused), and the BOS Agenda Highlight was not able to be presented.

1. **2021 Women’s Wall of Fame (update) May 8th; 2021 Madonna Inn in Secret Garden**

Paulla presented a recommendation to cancel the event this year, due to the COVID pandemic. She noted that she was aware of another organization that rescheduled their event and it became very difficult to return sponsorship donations. 2022 will be the new date. Meghan noted that this aligns well with the new timing of the survey process so that surveys can be completed by the attendees.

Guest Andrea Chmelik noted that the Women’s March is doing their events virtually, as are other organizations. Shorter time periods are used. Yet networking is also limited.

Several members shared their concerns about having a virtual Wall of Fame, noting that it may be awkward, that the celebratory aspect of the event would be reduced, and that ceremony itself is hard to do on Zoom. Paulla noted that Fall 2021 may be feasible, but still could be questionable due to the pandemic. Deb recommended postponing it until May, 2022, and Paull requested that we go with March, which has been the month previous Wall of Fame events were held. Stacy noted that nominations could begin earlier, even in the Fall or mid-Summer of 2021.

Shirley made a motion to delay the Wall of Fame process until at least March, 2022. Kathy seconded the motion, and all present agreed.

Meeting adjourned.