

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY COMMISSION FOR WOMEN
111 N.W. 1st Street, Suite #1034, Miami, FL 33128
Minutes of Meeting of January 23, 2013

Present: Leah Blumenfeld, Marie Eloi, Sharon Kendrick-Johnson, Samia Taoulost Malik, Beverly Nixon, Grace O'Donnell, Rhonda Pinkney-Wimberly, Kit Rafferty, Linda Robinson, Barbara Schwartz, Grace Signorelli, Mara Zapata, and Dona Zemo

Excused: Viviana Jordan, Francesca Menes, Eveline Pierre, Marie Woodson, and Mary Young

Absent: Lis-Marie Alvarado

Guests: Vicky Mallette and Maribel Balbin

Staff: Laura Morilla and Rene Diaz

Chairwoman Michelle Dunaj Lucking commenced the meeting at 5:35 p.m. Michelle welcomed everyone and everyone introduced themselves.

First there was a brief presentation by Rene Diaz, the Executive Director of the Office of Community Advocacy. Rene advised the CFW that the County Commission has a new Chair, Commissioner Rebeca Sosa, and a new Vice Chair, Commissioner Lynda Bell. Every new County Commission Chair has new ideas, and Chairwoman Sosa's vision for the advisory boards is to engage more with the public. Sosa would like for the advisory boards to take a more constituent or community based approach.

Then there was a presentation by Vicky Mallette, who is in charge of fundraising and development at the Parks Dept., about the 2013 In the Company of Women (ICOW) awards reception. The event is March 7th at the Rusty Pelican restaurant. Vicky is looking for items for the raffle and silent auction and Macy's is back as the Presenting Sponsor. The tickets this year are \$50 and include a glass of wine or cocktail. The Selection Committee is meeting tomorrow to pick the winners. Vicky also requested a donation once again this year from the CFW.

At this point there was a quorum. Dona moved to approve the agenda and Leah seconded the motion. The motion passed and the **agenda was approved.**

Mara moved to approve the minutes of 10/24/12 and Sharon seconded the motion. The motion passed and the **minutes were approved.**

Grace O'Donnell moved to approve the minutes of 11/28/12 and Dona seconded the motion. The motion passed and the **minutes were approved.** A correction will be made to a typo in the last sentence of the first paragraph.

Next there was a presentation by Maribel Balbin, the president of the League of Women Voters of Miami-Dade and a past Chair of the CFW. Maribel talked about the 2009 report on the economic status of women in Miami-Dade County issued by the Women's Fund of Miami-Dade. Maribel said she would like to see what has happened since the report was issued- has there been follow up, have the recommendations been implemented, has the status of women improved, etc. –and come up with an action plan to address the findings. Perhaps there can be a one-day conference in conjunction with the release of the CFW's Connections Directory.

Maribel would like for the CFW to consider partnering with the League of Women Voters in doing an event of this kind; be a co-convenor of the event. No money would be involved. Maribel would like to start planning the event and at the same time ask the FIU researchers of the original report if there is new data. She would like to get a date and location and then look for sponsorship. The event/conference would be to review and make new recommendations using at least 2012 Census data to update the report; but the event needs to be useful, valuable and purposeful. A Steering Committee could be created to plan the event. Barbara said that such a conference could serve to give women their marching orders. Grace Signorelli suggested that part of the conference could also be about the rights of working women, so that there would be not only intellectual empowerment but realistic empowerment also.

Maribel's request to the CFW is that the CFW consider joining the League and other organizations in organizing a women's conference to address the findings of the report and develop an action plan. Barbara so moved. After further discussion, Barbara amended her motion to support the conference and to enter into a discussion with the League and the Women's Fund and to refer the issue to a CFW committee to see how the CFW can help. Mara seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

Maribel then briefly mentioned that there is a County report that is supposed to be done after every reorganization to see where women County employees stand. She said that many women County employees has recently lost jobs. She suggested that the CFW may want to follow up on this report to see how women County employees fared after the most recent reorganization.

Then the **Committee Reports** were presented.

For the Legislative Committee, Kit reported that the proposed County paid sick leave ordinance did not pass on first reading in November. The coalition that is working on this issue (Catalyst Miami, Jobs with Justice, etc.) is in the process of raising money to engage in a full scale civic campaign. They are also meeting with all the County Commissioners to find out what can be done to address their concerns about the proposed ordinance. Michelle reported that she gave the CFW's presentation to the Miami-Dade Legislative Delegation at the public meeting in December.

Michelle explained the request from ERA activist Sandy Oestreich that the CFW meet with State Reps. Eddy Gonzalez and Daphne Campbell about the ERA. Rep. Gonzalez is the Chair of the House committee to which the ERA bill has been referred, and Rep. Campbell is the ranking Democratic member of that committee. Sandy wants the CFW to ask Rep. Gonzalez to hold a committee hearing on the ERA bill; in all these years that the ERA has been filed, no Florida House committee has ever give the bill a hearing. The CFW discussed the request and agreed that these meetings would be helpful. Kit moved that the CFW meet with Reps. Gonzalez and Campbell to ask for their support of the ERA. Barbara seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

Kit also mentioned that a bill to preempt the proposed paid sick leave ordinance may be filed in the Florida legislature so the CFW needs to keep an eye out for this.

Marie reviewed the written report of the Events Committee pertaining to the lobby display for Women's History Month. The next committee meeting is on January 29th and the lobby display is going up on March 4th.

The Goals Committee is meeting on February 5th.

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Under **Old Business**, the CFW addressed the sponsorship request by Vicky Mallette for the ICOW event and the specific amount that the CFW should donate. This led to a discussion about other CFW funding priorities, such as the possible printing of an updated Connections Directory. In the past the County had paid for the printing of the Directory, but for about the past 3 to 4 years, the CFW has had to raise money for the printing of the Directory. This is in addition to the reception where the CFW would traditionally distribute the new Directory. Michelle urged the CFW members to keep all this in mind when deciding which projects to support. After further discussion on the specific ICOW sponsorship issue, Kit moved that the CFW donate \$500 from the "Friends" account. Marie Eloi seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

Everyone was encouraged to attend the upcoming Women of Impact awards luncheon. Michelle is a Woman of Impact award winner this year.

Michelle reported that the CFW donations for the holiday gift drives were delivered, and that the CFW received a nice thank you letter from Kristi House.

Michelle reminded everyone to sign up for the RunWild 5K Run/Walk fundraiser for the Chapman Partnership. The event will be held on February 9, 2013, at ZooMiami and the CFW has a team.

Under **New Business**, Michelle explained that SAHARA has asked the CFW to co-sponsor a vigil on violence against women on Feb. 10th at the Women's Park. Grace Signorelli moved that the CFW co-sponsor the vigil. Grace O'Donnell seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

Michelle explained that the CFW has been asked to co-sponsor a Roundtable by the Women's Bureau on issues affecting women veterans on Feb 13th. The Regional Director of the Women's Bureau in Atlanta will be coming to Miami to make the presentation. Laura has already secured the meeting room and otherwise helped with organizing the event. The CFW agreed to co-sponsor the Roundtable.

Michelle mentioned Marie Woodson's suggestion that the CFW establish a scholarship for students. The item will be on the agenda for the next meeting for discussion when Marie is present and can explain further.

Several CFW members reported on their attendance at recent community events. Michelle attended a stone sculpture exhibit at Fairchild Gardens. Grace attended the Girl Scouts annual meeting. Grace Signorelli is in charge of charity drives for the State Attorney's Office and asked for suggestions of local charities that would accept non-monetary donations. Linda reported that she volunteered to serve meals to the homeless at the Homeless Assistance Center on Christmas Day, and that she also is serving as a coach/mentor in the Strong Women Strong Girls program. Marie Eloi reported that she made two presentations on human trafficking at her daughter's school.

The meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Laura Morilla
Recorder