

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

Present: Leah Blumenfeld, Monica Interian, Viviana Jordan, Sharon Kendrick-Johnson, Michelle Dunaj Lucking, Noreen Lagault Mendoza, Francesca Menes, and Marie Woodson

Excused: Nordis Alvarez, Marie Eloi, Beverly Nixon, Eveline Pierre, Rhonda Wimberly, Kit Rafferty, Linda Robinson, Phyllis Sloan-Simpkins, Mara Zapata and Dona Zemo

Absent: Samia Taoulost Malik

Guests: Vicky Mallette from the Miami-Dade Park, Recreation and Open Spaces Department

Staff: Laura Morilla

Chairwoman Michelle Dunaj Lucking commenced the meeting at 5:40 p.m. She welcomed everyone and asked the CFW members to introduce themselves.

Vicky Mallette, from the Miami-Dade Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces Department, made a **presentation** about the 2014 In the Company of Women (ICOW) awards event planned for March 13, 2014. Vicky is in charge of Development for the Parks Department and mainly raises money for the Parks Foundation, the Women's Park and the ICOW event. Vicky mentioned that this is the 26th year of the ICOW awards. Vicky stated that she would welcome assistance with getting items donated for the silent auction. The planning committee is also looking at potentially getting a keynote speaker. There was a brief discussion of getting the emcee for the event. Vicky mentioned that the Parks Dept. has a good relationship with Channel 10 so Neki Mohan could be asked again, but she welcomed suggestions from the CFW for a new emcee. The event will be held on March 13, 2014, most likely at the Coral Gables Country Club. She also asked that the CFW look at the sponsorship package and consider being a monetary sponsor once again. There was a brief discussion of the different sponsorship levels and Vicky stated that she would love it if the CFW would contribute at the \$1000 level. Leah suggested that the CFW at least sponsor at the \$500 level from last year and Michelle stated that she would like for the CFW to donate at the \$1000 level since this is one of the CFW's major events. This matter will be on the agenda for the November meeting for a vote.

The **Committee Reports** were then presented.

Communications Committee. Laura gave a brief update on the status of the Connections Directory. The graphics designer is working on putting the directory together and most of the ad money has been received. The CFW will be using the printer recommended by Viviana, which does the printing for the School Board.

Legislative Committee. Leah reported that the ERA ratification bills have been filed for the 2014 Florida legislative session and that the committee is waiting to hear back from Representative Eddie Gonzalez about setting up a meeting with him. The ERA bill has been referred to his committee in the Florida House of Representatives. Other bills that the CFW will be looking at are: 1. Alimony revision bill; 2. Unemployment compensation for domestic violence survivors; 3. Bill to be filed by Senator Dwight Bullard pertaining to the Marissa Alexander "stand your ground" issue; and 4. Guardianship/attorneys' fee bills affecting many elderly women.

Michelle then said that domestic violence is a very important issue and she would like to create a Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Issues Committee to make sure that this issue is addressed. The issue of domestic violence would be combined with the issue of sexual assault to create this new committee. Michelle noted that in past years, the CFW has had a combined Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Issues Committee. After some discussion, the committee was created and the members of the committee are: Monica Interian, Sharon Kendrick-Johnson, Marie Woodson, Noreen Lagault Mendoza and Marie Eloi (who is currently a member of the Sexual Assault Issues Committee).

Noreen said that she was a film maker and she suggested doing a public service announcement (psa) on the subject of domestic violence. She said that she could do the script for the psa to show at different occasions and venues and on different mediums (TV, cable, websites, etc.). It would be a way for the CFW to educate the community and Noreen's expertise could be used in this capacity. Viviana mentioned that the CFW could work with a student film festival and the schools. Their main event is a film festival in March or April of every year, Viviana knows the organizer and perhaps the CFW can get students to do the psa. Noreen said that perhaps she could contact the women that she knows from the old Women of the Motion Picture Industry (WOMPI) group for assistance. The Communications and the D/V and Sexual Assault Issues committees will work together and start meeting in January.

Back to legislative issues, Michelle mentioned the proposed federal Family and Medical Insurance Leave Act, which would expand the Family and Medical Leave Act and provide for paid leave. Kit and Michelle were supposed to make a citizen's presentation at the County Commission meeting yesterday but it was postponed for a date in November. Michelle stated that Commissioner Audrey Edmonson is drafting a resolution urging the County Commissioners to support the proposed law. Michelle also reported that Kit would like for the CFW to support Commissioner Edmonson's resolution and work to help get the Act passed. The CFW then had a brief discussion of the provisions of the Act and the tax component. Michelle also reported that the CFW's Executive Committee voted to support the Act at the Executive Committee meeting immediately preceding the main board meeting.

Under **Old Business**, Michelle reported that she, Mara, Viviana, and Laura attended the Andrea Castillo Foundation event and delivered the CFW's donation of \$250. Michelle stated that it was a lovely, inspiring event and Viviana talked about the Foundation's purpose. Almost all of the money collected goes directly towards the scholarships and this will become an annual event around the time of Andrea Castillo's birthday. Per Viviana, each scholarship awarded was between \$1000 and \$2000 per student.

Under **New Business**, Michelle suggested that it was time to schedule another "one the road" meeting. The last one was held in March at the Women's Park. Michelle reported that Laura went to see the North Miami Library as a possible venue. It was suggested that the next on the road meeting should be in January or February, 2014. This will be decided at the November CFW meeting.

Under **Attendance at Community Events**, Francesca reported that she went to a breast cancer awareness event at Bar Louie. Leah attended the Women in the Boardroom event by the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce. Michelle attended an ethics conference and judicial reception last night and had a chance to talk to many of the women judges. Noreen attended the Women's Fund's grantee breakfast.

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Laura Morilla
Recorder

