

**MIAMI-DADE COUNTY COMMISSION FOR WOMEN**  
**111 N.W. 1<sup>st</sup> Street, Suite #1034, Miami, FL 33128**  
**Minutes of Meeting of November 21, 2013**

**Present:** Nordis Alvarez, Leah Blumenfeld, Marie Eloi, Monica Interian, Viviana Jordan, Michelle Dunaj Lucking, Samia Taoulost Malik, Noreen Lagault Mendoza, Francesca Menes, Beverly Nixon, Kit Rafferty, Linda Robinson, Phyllis Sloan-Simpkins, and Marie Woodson

**Excused:** Sharon Kendrick-Johnson, Eveline Pierre, Rhonda Wimberly, Mara Zapata and Dona Zemo

**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.

Phyllis moved to approve the agenda and Samia seconded the motion. The motion passed and the **agenda was approved.**

Viviana moved to approve the minutes of 09/25/13 and Phyllis seconded the motion. The motion passed and the **minutes were approved.**

Marie Woodson moved to approve the minutes of 10/23/13 and Viviana seconded the motion. The motion passed and the **minutes were approved.**

The **Committee Reports** were then presented.

The CFW first discussed the In the Company of Women 2014 awards reception and the sponsorship request made by Vicky Mallette of the Parks Department at the last CFW meeting.. Laura and Michelle gave a brief history of the event. Michelle explained that she and Laura have been going to planning meetings and that the event will most likely be held at the Coral Gables Country Club. The CFW members then discussed at what level to give for the sponsorship. Noreen stated that she would like to give at the \$2500 level and Francesca and Marie Woodson would like to give at the \$1000 level. Marie stated that the CFW should keep in mind the money needed for the scholarship award also. Viviana asked if the CFW had already paid for the printing of the Connections Directory and Laura replied that she had not yet received the invoice so payment is pending. Noreen suggested that perhaps the CFW could give \$1000 and \$1500 of in-kind donations because of the time given so that the CFW might be considered at the \$2500 level. Marie Woodson also said that she would like for the CFW to be recognized at the \$2500 level. After some more discussion, Phyllis moved that the CFW sponsor at the \$1000 level. Marie Woodson seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

Michelle and Laura mentioned that donations are also needed for the silent auction; items such as restaurant certificates, spa certificates, hotel stays, etc. Phyllis mentioned that the Firefighters Foundation that she is associated with may be able to make a donation.

**Communications Committee.** The Connections Directory of women's organizations has been published and was distributed to the CFW members. The CFW will have to pay for the design and printing of the Directories. The printing cost is \$2165.76 and the estimated graphics design cost is \$450. Linda moved that the expenses for the design and printing be paid from the Commission for Women Trust Fund. Viviana seconded the motion,

and the motion passed. The Committee will meet soon to update the CFW's marketing materials and come up with ideas for promoting the CFW.

**Legislative Committee.** Francesca gave a brief update on the CFW priorities to be discussed at the next meeting of the Legislative Committee. These include the ERA ratification bill (HCR 8001), the bill providing for unemployment compensation for domestic violence survivors, and the bill regarding guardianship and legal fees. Another preemption bill on wage theft may be filed too. The CFW will make a presentation at the Miami-Dade Legislative Delegation public hearing on January 21, 2014.

Kit gave a brief explanation about the proposed Family Medical Act that will be filed in Congress soon. This bill pertains to paid family leave, which most industrialized nations already have. Kit reported that she and Marie Woodson recently made a presentation to the County Commissioners about the Family Medical Act. Kit also reported that she had visited with several County Commissioners about the proposed expansion of Medicaid in Florida under the Affordable Care Act and that the County Commissioners recently passed a resolution urging the Florida Legislature to accept the federal money for expansion.

**Bylaws Committee.** The CFW members briefly reviewed the proposed amendments to the CFW bylaws. Kit moved to approve the amendments. Phyllis seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

**Events and Fundraising Committee.** Marie Woodson reviewed the written committee report. First she explained the proposed scholarship to be awarded by the CFW. The Committee's recommendation is to award the scholarship to a student(s) at the Young Women's Preparatory Academy (YWPA) because it's a magnet school for girls and because there is good diversity in the student body. Marie stated that, per Michelle's suggestion, the first \$1000 for the scholarship can come from the money that we now have in the "Friends" account.

With regard to the proposed motivational/mentoring event for girls, the Committee is also recommending that the event be done at the YWPA. Marie Eloi asked if the program would be only for the girls that attend YWPA, and Marie Woodson and Viviana said yes, mainly because of transportation concerns and the issues of safety and liability raised by transporting students.

Per the County Attorney, in connection with the proposed scholarship the CFW ordinance should be amended to give the CFW authority to award scholarships. Beverly moved that the CFW ask the County Commissioners to amend the CFW ordinance to authorize the CFW to award scholarships. Monica seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

Leah moved to approve the Events and Fundraising Committee Report of November 18, 2013. Phyllis seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

Under **Old Business**, the CFW discussed having the next "on the road meeting" on January 22, 2014. The suggestion was made a while back that the meeting be held in North Miami so Laura went to see the community room at the North Miami Library in October. The library closes at 8 p.m. so the meeting would have to be over by 8 p.m., and the CFW usually starts the on the road meetings at 6 p.m., not at 5:30 p.m. Kit moved to have the January 22, 2014 meeting at the North Miami Library from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Samia seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

Under **New Business**, Michelle explained the RunWild 5K run/walk at ZooMiami on February 8, 2014. This is an annual fundraiser for the Chapman Partnership for the homeless and the CFW has had a team for the past two years. Leah moved that the CFW participate and create a team. Marie Woodson seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

Under **Attendance at Community Events**, Francesca reported that the national immigration conference that she helped to organize was held this week in Miami. It was a very successful event attended by the new U.S. Secretary of Labor, Congressman Luis Gutierrez and other elected officials.

Back to the issue of the RunWild 5k, Noreen moved to create CFW T-shirts. She said that the guy that did such a good job with her business cards would be able to do the T-shirts good and cheap. Viviana said that she would like to design the T-shirts. The Communications Committee will look into this and follow up.

The meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

Laura Morilla  
Recorder