

**MIAMI-DADE COUNTY COMMISSION FOR WOMEN**  
**111 N.W. 1<sup>st</sup> Street, Suite 1034, Miami, FL 33128**  
**Minutes of Meeting of January 22, 2014**

**Present:** Leah Blumenfeld, Marie Soeurette Eloi, Monica Interian, Viviana Jordan, Sharon Kendrick Johnson, Michelle Dunaj Lucking, Francesca Menes, Beverly Nixon, Eveline Pierre, Marie Woodson, and Dona Zemo

**Excused:** Nordis Alvarez, Samia Taoulost Malik, Noreen Lagault Mendoza, Kit Rafferty, Linda Robinson, Phyllis Sloan-Simpkins, Rhonda Wimberly, and Mara Zapata

**Staff:** Laura Morilla

**Guests:** Commissioner Jean Monestime, Rep. Daphne Campbell, Rep. Barbara Watson, North Miami Vice Mayor Marie Erlande Steril, Sara Leviten, Laurie Kaye Davis, Sheila Robinson with the Office of rep. Barbara Watson, Blondine Pierre, Eugenie Mumpren, Dannie McMillon, and Laurel Clark

First Vice Chair Marie Woodson commenced the meeting at 6:20 p.m. and welcomed everyone. Marie introduced the elected officials who were present and stated how pleased she was that the meeting was being held in North Miami. The meeting was held at the North Miami Public Library.

Viviana moved to approve the Agenda and Francesca seconded the motion. The motion passed and the **Agenda was approved.**

First there was a **Public Forum:**

Commissioner Jean Monestime made some welcoming remarks. He talked about the important contributions that women have made in the world and he recognized that women are still fighting for equality in all aspects of life. The Commissioner commended the CFW for having meetings in different parts of the County and he encouraged the CFW to continue working for women's rights. He also thanked his appointees to the CFW.

At this point Marie Woodson asked the CFW members to introduce themselves and she also acknowledged the Vice Mayor of North Miami, Marie Erlande Steril.

State Representative Daphne Campbell gave a brief welcome and encouraged more women to get involved in politics.

Vice Mayor Marie Erlande Steril made a few remarks and invited the CFW to come back to North Miami for another meeting to be better welcomed and recognized.

Then State Representative Barbara Watson spoke. She said that it was important for women to continue working together and she acknowledged President John F. Kennedy for creating the first Presidential Commission on the Status of Women. She mentioned the two priority bills that she is championing during the legislative session. One deals with the loaning of vehicles to predators who commit crimes; the person loaning the vehicle would be charged with a felony too. The other has to do with patient care and the ratio of nurses to patients in emergency rooms. This bill is a priority for SEIU. Both bills are still in the drafting stage.

After the presentations by the elected officials, Marie Woodson turned to the issue of approving the minutes of the CFW minutes of the meeting of 11/21/13. Leah moved to approve the minutes of 11/21/13 and Sharon seconded the motion. The motion passed and the **minutes were approved.**

**Now back to general comments from the public.**

Laurie Kaye Davis, the Executive Director of the Commonwealth Institute, said that she receives Laura's emails and wanted to attend to see the CFW in action. She said that the Commonwealth Institute helps women to grow their businesses. Sara Leviten, who was a member of the CFW in the 1980s, thanked the CFW for having the meeting in North Miami. Eugenie Mumpren said that she came to the meeting because of her concerns about women's issues.

**There were no more comments from the public and the public forum ended.**

The **Committee Reports** were presented.

**Event and Fundraising Committee.** Sharon reviewed the written report. The Committee plans to meet with the principal of the Young Women's Preparatory Academy (YWPA) and the Miami-Dade County School Board liaison to discuss the proposed event for the girls. Viviana put together a tentative proposal/schedule for the event program. The Committee will continue to work on this project with a target date of May 2014. Marie reported that the Committee is waiting for the CFW ordinance to be amended to authorize the CFW to award scholarships before proceeding. In the meantime, she is working to raise funds for the scholarship. Viviana talked about the RunWild 5K of Feb. 8<sup>th</sup> in which the CFW is participating and she reported that the Committee agreed to have t-shirts made to wear for the event. The t-shirt will be white with the logos. Laura will email everyone tomorrow to ask who wants t-shirts and in what size.

**Legislative Committee.** Monica reviewed the written report and reported that yesterday she and Michelle made a presentation on behalf of the CFW at the Miami-Dade Legislative Delegation public meeting about the bills that the CFW supports. Some of these bills concern the ERA, alimony, unemployment compensation for domestic violence survivors, and the minimum wage. We are still waiting to get a meeting with Rep. Eddy Gonzalez to talk to him about the ERA bill that is in the committee that he chairs. Francesca added that the Legislative Committee met on 01/13/14 to prioritize the bills and issues to follow and that the CFW will send out a more detailed position. Francesca and Laura answered some questions about the alimony bill and the importance of maintaining judicial discretion. Leah explained that many of the bills that the CFW supports come under the umbrella of economic justice and women's economic status. The Legislative Committee's report referred to statistics provided by Michelle showing Miami leads the country in the number of senior elderly women living in extreme poverty. Paid sick leave, equal pay, and financial education are the factors identified as having a central role in poverty among women. Michelle requested the CFW to make this issue a top priority. Leah moved that the CFW adopt the Legislative Committee's report and Dona seconded the motion. The motion passed and the **report was adopted.**

**Goals Committee.** This item will be put back on the agenda for the February meeting.

Under **Old Business**, Laura reminded everyone about the RunWild 5K on February 8<sup>th</sup> at ZooMiami and encouraged everyone to register on the CFW team.

Laura explained that the In the Company of Women awards reception is coming up on March 13<sup>th</sup> and that the CFW is a major co-sponsor so the CFW should have a big presence there. One of our members, Linda Robinson, is the winner of the Mayor's Pioneer Award to be presented that evening. Silent auction items are still needed.

Under **New Business**, Laura explained that the CFW must submit its Sunset Review Report. This is a report that all County boards must submit to the County Commissioners every two years. It consists of the standard questionnaire plus the attachments requested in the questionnaire. Eveline asked whether it could be on the

February agenda because she had not reviewed the report. Francesca and Marie asked the vote be tabled. There was some discussion about whether the report had to be approved at this meeting. Laura explained that the report was due in early January and that the minutes of the CFW meeting at which the Sunset Review Report was approved had to be attached to the report.

At this point, CFW Chair Michelle Dunaj Lucking arrived at the meeting.

There was continued discussion about the Sunset Review Report. Prior to the January meeting, Laura sent two emails to the CFW including the report as an attachment and stating the importance of having a quorum for purposes of voting at the January meeting. Michelle noted that all community boards are similarly required to timely provide a Sunset Review Report and that it was important to approve the report since it provides the basis for continued existence of the CFW. Viviana moved that the CFW approve the Sunset Review Report and Sharon seconded the motion. The motion passed, by a vote of 8 to 3, and the **Sunset Review Report was approved**. Michelle requested that the minutes reflect that the three “no” votes were Francesca, Marie Eloi, and Eveline.

The CFW next discussed changing the dates of the meetings in July, September and November because of various conflicts. The July meeting conflicts with the NACW convention in Sarasota, the September meeting conflicts with the first day of Rosh Hashanah, and the November meeting date is the day before Thanksgiving. The CFW agreed to move the July meeting to July 30, the September meeting to September 17, and the November meeting to November 19.

Laura briefly mentioned that July 2, 2014 is the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Civil Right Act of 1964 and that the EEOC in Miami is planning some sort of event for that day. The CFW partnered with the EEOC for last year’s commemoration of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Equal Pay Act of 1963. There is an interesting story as to how women became covered under the protections of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. There will be more information to follow about an event on July 2.

**Attendance at community events.** Monica attended two “United to End Violence Against Women” events; one in Doral and one in Little Havana. She also reported that the Doral City Council passed a resolution to recognize October 25 as “Orange Day” where people wear orange to increase public awareness about violence against women. Monica will also be attending the “Converge” conference on gender violence at the University of Miami.

Marie Eloi mentioned that January is Human Trafficking Awareness Month and that she would like to see the CFW’s Human Trafficking Committee do something before the month is over.

Francesca reported that she organized the group of kids singing Christmas carols in front of Congressman Mario Diaz-Balart’s home over the holidays. This was done to bring attention to the immigration issue and the need for Congressional action on immigration reform.

Michelle stated that she attended the Women’s Chamber of Commerce’s event at the New World Symphony in December.

The CFW has been invited on a tour of Sun Life Stadium by the Miami Dolphins’ group sales office and is interested in taking the tour. Laura will follow up to coordinate and get details.

Under **Announcements**, Dona announced that the Miami Beach Women’s Conference will be held on March 14. It will include the opening session at Miami Beach City Hall and the luncheon at the garden. The focus will be on women in the military.

Dannie McMillon of the Miami Gardens CFW announced that they are having a women's financial literacy workshop in April. Flyer to follow. Michelle noted she had received the flyer, and that many other women's organizations were holding financial education events.

Sara Leviten said that the Women's History Coalition's kickoff of Women's History Month is March 1 at the gravesite of Julia Tuttle at the Miami City Cemetery. The next day, March 2, is the Women of Impact awards reception. Michelle reported that Linda Robinson is a recipient of the WOI award this year.

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Laura Morilla, Recorder