

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY COMMISSION FOR WOMEN
111 N.W. 1st Street, Suite 1034, Miami, FL 33128
Minutes of Meeting of March 26, 2014

Present: Nordis Alvarez, Leah Blumenfeld, Monica Interian, Viviana Jordan, Sharon Kendrick-Johnson, Michelle Dunaj Lucking, Eveline Pierre, Linda Robinson, Marie Woodson, and Dona Zemo

Excused: Marie Eloi, Noreen Lagault Mendoza, Francesca Menes, Beverly Nixon, Kit Rafferty, Rhonda Wimberly, and Mara Zapata

Absent: Samia Taoulost Malik and Phyllis Sloan-Simpkins

Staff: Laura Morilla

Guests: Miami-Dade School Board Member Susie Castillo and Sara Mercado

Chair Michelle Dunaj Lucking commenced the meeting at 5:45 p.m. and welcomed everyone.

The **Committee Reports** were presented first.

The Nominating Committee is meeting on April 8 to decide the slate of officers for the April election.

Monica reviewed the written report of the Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Issues Committee. She talked about the recent Converge Conference at the University of Miami that she attended. It was a conference that featured national speakers. Monica explained that the new, more inclusive term being used to describe all types of violence against women is “gender based violence.” One of the Committee’s recommendations is that the CFW merge the Domestic Violence Committee and the Human Trafficking Committee into one Gender Based Violence Committee. The main reason for the suggestion is that the CFW has too few members and some of the same members are on both committees. Monica explained that when she met with Ivon Mesa from the Coordinated Victims’ Assistance Center (CVAC), Ivon recommended that the two committees remain separate. Mara, the Chair of the Human Trafficking Committee, would also like to keep the two committees separate. The CFW decided to defer the discussion until the next meeting when Mara is present.

Monica further reported that the feeling at the Conference was that there is a lot of rhetoric but not enough action when it comes to addressing the problem of domestic violence, and that there is a special concern with law enforcement.

Regarding the several recommendations in the committee report, the CFW will invite Judge Steve Leifman to come to the June CFW meeting. The CFW will contact Ivon Mesa to try to schedule a tour of the CVAC and try to have its June meeting there too. The CFW will also schedule a tour of the Miami-Dade Police Crime Lab. Sharon also suggested a tour of the Rape Treatment Center at Jackson Memorial Hospital.

Next there was a **presentation** by Susie Castillo, who is a member of the Miami-Dade County School Board, about the Andrea Castillo Foundation. The Andrea Castillo Foundation was named after her daughter, who passed away in October 2012 in a car accident, and it awards scholarships to students at Miami Dade College and FIU who are studying to get a teaching degree. School Board Member Castillo has raised enough money to establish an endowment at FIU and Miami Dade College. The scholarships are now available- three at FIU and three at Miami Dade College. Castillo thanked the CFW and offered to help the CFW in any way.

Then there was a **presentation** by Sara Mercado a financial planner at Thrivent Financial. Sara explained that Thrivent Financial is a non-profit company that sponsors and organizes events with the goal to help people with their financial planning. They have regularly scheduled workshops and the one coming up is on Women and Money. Laura will send out the email again and Sara invited the CFW members to this program, so that there is no charge for CFW members. Sara stated that she is willing to give presentations, especially to younger people, and that she can be a resource. Her company is very philanthropic and socially conscience.

Back to **Committee Reports**, for the Events and Fundraising Committee Michelle noted that the CFW's Women's History Month display is up in the lobby. The CFW members signed the card that will be mailed to Roxcy Bolton congratulating her for her award by the National Women's History Project. Michelle also reported that on April 2 some committee members will meet with Arlene Martinez and Connie Martinez, the principal of the Young Women's Preparatory Academy (YWPA), at the YWPA to discuss the proposed event for the girls at the YWPA. Marie Woodson reported that she also spoke at the YWPA last week as part of a Women's History Month symposium and that she was very impressed with the school.

At this point there was a quorum and Linda moved to approve the report of the Domestic Violence Committee with the exception of the recommendation to merge the Domestic Violence and Human Trafficking Committees. Marie Woodson seconded the motion, and **the motion passed.**

Under Old Business, Michelle explained that the National Association of Commissions for Women (NACW) is asking the CFW to sponsor certain items for the NACW conference in July. The CFW briefly reviewed the various sponsorship levels. Eveline said that she likes the \$500 sponsorship level and Marie Woodson said that she would like the CFW to pay for the key fobs with the CFW logo for \$112.50. Marie Woodson moved that the CFW sponsor these two items for the conference. Eveline seconded the motion, and **the motion passed.**

Viviana moved to approve the minutes of the CFW meeting of 02/26/14, as amended to reflect the correct meeting time start at 5:40 p.m., and Linda seconded the motion. The motion passed and the **minutes were approved.**

Leah moved to approve the Agenda and Sharon seconded the motion. The motion passed and the **Agenda was approved.**

At this point Michelle briefly reviewed the activities the CFW has coming up that may cost money. These include the July 2nd Civil Rights Act event, the YWPA event for girls, and the scholarship that the CFW is planning to award. The current balances that the CFW has available are \$4000 in the "Friends" account and \$1842 in the Trust Fund. Michelle asked the CFW to keep this mind going forward.

Michelle reported that all of the Office of Community Advocacy boards will be involved in the planning of the the event to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Civil Right act of 1964 that is planned for July 2nd; specifically the afternoon and evening activities. Marie attended the recent planning meeting with Malcolm Medley, the EEOC Director for the Miami District, and she gave a brief update on the planning too.

Michelle reminded everyone to attend the May 2nd Women's Health and Wealth Conference. The CFW is a co-sponsor.

Laura announced that there are two CFW t-shirts left over for purchase and Eveline gave Laura her payment.

Michelle reported on the successful In the Company of Women awards event and congratulated Linda again for her award.

Under **New Business**, Dona reported on the Miami Beach Women's Conference. She mentioned that CFW member Phyllis Sloan-Simpkins was a fabulous speaker.

Michelle reported that she and Laura are participating in the "Color of Justice" program on March 31st organized by the National Association of Women Judges.

Nordis and Laura attended the FIU Women's History Conference with Donna Brazile and reported that she was a very inspiring speaker.

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Laura Morilla, Recorder