

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY COMMISSION FOR WOMEN
111 N.W. 1st Street, Suite 1034, Miami, FL 33128
Minutes of Meeting of May 27, 2015

Present: Clora Adkins, Monica Interian, Viviana Jordan, Sharon Kendrick-Johnson, Noreen Lagault Mendoza, Beverly Nixon, Kit Rafferty, Linda Robinson, Marie Woodson, and Mara Zapata

Excused: Leah Blumenfeld, Marie Eloi, Nordis Forcade, Francesca Menes, Eveline Pierre, Raissa Sequeira, Phyllis Sloan-Simpkins, and Dona Zemo

Guests: Anne McCudden, Manager of the Women's Park; several students from Miami-Dade College

Staff: Laura Morilla

Chairwoman Mara Zapata commenced the meeting at 6:15 p.m. and welcomed everyone. The meeting was held at the Kendale Lakes Branch Library in West Kendall.

Mara opened up the public forum but there were no comments from the public at this time.

The **Committee Reports** were then presented.

Events and Fundraising Committee. Marie Woodson reviewed the written committee report of the meeting of 05/19/15 where the Committee reviewed the scholarship applications from the YWPA students. The students selected by the Committee are Shaquelle Ballou and Michelle Rodriguez. One of the \$1000 scholarships is being funded by the CFW/Friends and the other \$1000 scholarship by Dr. Smith Joseph, who is also the Mayor of North Miami. The scholarship checks will be presented to the students at the BCC meeting of June 30th. Marie also reported that the Committee discussed the fact that the CFW has to do fundraising for expenses for next year.

Legislative Committee. Leah is out of town but provided a brief update via email.

Going back to the issue of fundraising, Laura suggested asking Commissioners for donations from their office discretionary funds. One of the audience members, a student from Miami-Dade College, suggested having a fundraising event that will attract younger women. Something like a wine tasting event might limit attendance by college students.

Old Business. The CFW members who toured the Metro West Detention Center on May 18th talked about the visit. Viviana said that it was a great visit with a lot of access to the facility and that it was not what she expected. Viviana said that one of her main concerns is the re-entry process for the women being released from the Detention Center. Kit said that this was a County facility and that the staff showed concern; in contrast to the private jails where there is more concern for making a profit for the shareholders of the company. Linda said that she was impressed with the psychiatric treatment available for the inmates.

At this point Clora arrived and there was a quorum.

Clora also went on the visit to the Detention Center and was also a Captain with the Miami-Dade Corrections Dept. for many years. Mara asked Clora to talk about the non-profit that she has that helps promote awareness of human trafficking and Clora gave a summary.

Then there was a discussion as to whether there is enough education about human trafficking in the public schools. Viviana said that sometimes it is incorporated in other subjects like character education and social sciences.

Laura reported that she recently had a meeting with Wendy Kallergis of the Greater Miami and the Beaches Hotel Association to brainstorm and discuss how to get more hotels to participate in “The Envelope Please” Initiative.

Mara reported that the CEDAW ordinance proposed by Commissioner Daniella Levine Cava passed first reading and that a public hearing is scheduled for July 9th at 2 p.m. Mara also reported that she and Laura recently attended a meeting with the Commissioner’s staff, the County Attorney, and the Commission Auditor to discuss details of what the ordinance would say.

Mara mentioned that the Mayor had come back with a memorandum about pay equity for County employees in response to Commissioner Sally Heyman’s resolution passed last November. The Mayor reported in the memorandum that the County’s Human Resources Dept. does not have the capability to do the requested analysis and recommended using an outside consultant to do the analysis.

Laura then briefly explained that the CEDAW ordinance proposes that the County do an extensive analysis of women in several areas and that a fiscal impact analysis of the proposed ordinance has to be done. So, the Commission Auditor may recommend that an outside consultant be hired, similar to what happened with Commissioner Heyman’s resolution.

New Business. Mara reminded everyone that Women’s Equality Day is coming up on August 26. Laura, Maribel Balbin from the League of Women Voters, and Anne McCudden from The Women’s Park are meeting next week to start planning an event for the observance.

Mara reminded everyone to file their financial disclosure form by July 1.

Viviana moved to approve the meeting agenda and Linda seconded the motion. The motion passed and the **agenda was approved.**

Kit moved to approve the minutes of the meeting of 04/22/15 and Linda seconded the motion. The motion passed and the **minutes were approved.**

Going back to the report of the **Events and Fundraising Committee**, Noreen moved to approve the Committee’s recommendation to award the scholarships to Shaquelle Ballou and Michelle Rodriguez. Beverly seconded the motion, and the **motion passed.**

Attendance at Community Events. Kit attended the “Women Up Front” event in Little Haiti this past Sunday. Noreen attended the recent E-Merge tech conference, where there was a lot of focus on women in technology. Marie Woodson reported that May is Haitian Heritage Month so she attended a couple of events at the Haitian Cultural Center.

The meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Laura Morilla
Recorder