

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY COMMISSION FOR WOMEN
111 N.W. 1st Street, Suite 1034, Miami, FL 33128
Minutes of Meeting of July 22, 2015

Present: Leah Blumenfeld, Marie Eloi, Monica Interian, Viviana Jordan, Tara Leighton, Noreen Lagault Mendoza, Beverly Nixon, Kit Rafferty, Linda Robinson, Raisa Sequeira, and Mara Zapata

Excused: Clora Adkins, Sharon Kendrick-Johnson, Phyllis Sloan-Simpkins, Marie Woodson, and Dona Zemo

Absent: Nordis Forcade and Francesca Menes

Guests: Lynette Long, Darlene Hollander, Maribel Balbin, Amy Carswell, Retha Boone, and a member of the Black Affairs Advisory Board (BAAB)

Staff: Laura Morilla and Vanessa Ortega

Chair Mara Zapata commenced the meeting at 5:45 p.m. and welcomed everyone.

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

Leah moved to approve the minutes of the CFW meeting of 06/24/15 and Viviana seconded the motion. The motion passed and **the minutes were approved.**

Then there was a **presentation** by Lynette Long, Ph.D., the president of Equal Visibility Everywhere (EVE), about her efforts to replace one of Florida's statues in National Statuary Hall in the U.S. Capitol. Dr. Long would like to replace the statue of Confederate General Edmund Kirby Smith with one of Marjory Stoneman Douglas. Dr. Long reviewed a power point presentation during the discussion.

Dr. Long explained that the project started back in 2009 or 2010 when she took a tour of the U.S. Capitol and noticed the lack of women represented in the statues placed by the states in National Statuary Hall. She then established EVE to try to correct this situation. Dr. Long tried to get the statues of Harriet Beecher Stowe in Ohio and Harriet Tubman in Maryland but was not successful. She said that now there is an opportunity in Florida with Marjory Stoneman Douglas.

Dr. Long then showed her power point presentation about National Statuary Hall, the process for getting a statue replaced, and about Marjory Stoneman Douglas in particular. The entire collection in Statuary Hall is 100 statues with each state getting having two statues; 39 are in the actual Hall and the others are scattered around the U.S. Capitol. A law passed in 2000 allows states to replace their statues. The most recent woman added was in 2009 when Alabama installed a statue of Helen Keller. A statue of Amelia Earhart will be going in for Kansas and California may be replacing the statue of Junipero Serra with Sally Ride. In order for Florida to place a statue of Marjory Stoneman Douglas, Florida would have to take out one of the current statues.

Dr. Long then answered questions from the CFW members and the CFW discussed the matter. Raisa moved that the CFW support Dr. Long's proposal to replace the statue of Confederate general Edmund Kirby Smith with a statue of Marjory Stoneman Douglas. Linda seconded the motion, **and the motion passed.**

Then there was another **presentation** by Retha Boone, the Director of the Black Affairs Advisory Board (BAAB) about the “Women of a New Tribe” exhibit that BAAB is planning to display in the lobby of the Stephen P. Clark Center. BAAB would like to do the exhibit in March 2016 for Women’s History Month, alongside the CFW’s Women’s History Month display, so Retha explained the project to the CFW. About 50 local women would be featured in a photographic exhibit. Noreen moved that the CFW support the exhibit. Viviana seconded the motion, and the **motion passed**.

The **Committee Reports** were then presented.

Bylaws Committee. The CFW considered the proposed amendment that would include the language about waiving the Miami-Dade County residency requirement. This waiver is already in the CFW’s governing ordinance so this amendment would just add it to the Bylaws. Tara moved to approve the amendment to the Bylaws and Leah seconded the motion. **The motion passed and the Bylaws were amended.**

Human Trafficking Committee. Linda gave the Committee report. Linda stated that she has attended about eight events in the last year and that the two priorities that she keeps hearing about are public awareness/education and the need for a shelter for victims. Linda has also spoken to Kathy Fernandez Rundle about this issue. Linda reported that she recently attended the Steering Committee meeting for a human trafficking symposium that Florida National University is planning in October. About 60 people were there and another meeting is planned in August. Linda is suggesting that town hall meetings on human trafficking be held in each County Commission district. Some of the speakers from the symposium could also be asked to speak at these town hall meetings.

Linda reported that the organizers of the Florida National University symposium are asking the CFW to support the symposium and allow them to use the CFW logo on materials. Linda so moved. Marie Eloi seconded the motion, and **the motion passed**.

Linda is also going to a meeting of all the mayors in District 8 to talk about this. Kit suggested going to where people are, like Miami-Dade College. Mara said that it was important to be in all different areas of the County. Noreen suggested involving the other local women’s commissions. Raissa said that the CFW should promote this on social media and suggested that the CFW have a google page, which she could set up. Raissa will be added to the CFW’s Communications Committee. Marie Eloi mentioned that a presentation to the Haitian-American Nurses Association would be good. Kit moved to approve the Human Trafficking Committee report and take action as recommended. Linda seconded the motion, and the **motion passed**.

Domestic Violence Committee. Monica reviewed the written Committee report. Monica stated that the CFW needs to be out in the field and interact with survivors, in addition to supporting legislation. Monica would also like to see the municipalities doing more awareness. Kit suggested highlighting the County’s domestic violence leave ordinance, which was the first of its kind in the nation. The CFW can also talk to Representative Jose Javier Rodriguez to see if he is going to file the bill regarding unemployment compensation for DV survivors.

The CFW then had a long discussion about the Committee’s recommendation to try to change Domestic Violence Awareness Month from October to July. Monica is concerned that October is the designated month for so many causes that it takes away from domestic violence awareness. Kit suggested that the CFW find out when these year-round DV events occur and support and publicize them. Beverly asked how the CFW could change this nationally since Domestic Violence Awareness Month is celebrated in October around the country. Noreen said

that she would like to table this item to the next meeting to be able to give this some thought. Leah agreed. Regarding resolutions by the County Commission and other governmental bodies, it’s nice to pass resolutions

but what are they actually going to do about the problem. This matter will be on the agenda for the September 30th meeting and hopefully the Committee can meet before then.

Old Business. Laura reported that she was part of a recent conference call about The Envelope Please Initiative that the CFW is supporting. Also on that call were Fatima Perez, the Chief of Staff to Miami Beach Mayor Phillip Levine, Erin Stein, the Executive Director of A Woman's Nation, Bill Talbert from the Greater Miami Convention & Visitors' Bureau, and Wendy Kallergis from the Greater Miami and the Beaches Hotel Association. The purpose of the call was to discuss strategy for getting more hotels to participate. A visit to Miami by Maria Shriver later in the year or around the time of Art Basel is a possibility.

Mara reported that the CEDAW ordinance passed the Economic Prosperity Committee and will be on the County Commission agenda in September for final passage.

New Business. Mara announced that the next on the road meeting is on October 28th at 6 p.m. in Miami Springs at the Curtiss Mansion.

Mara reported that the 2016 In the Company of Women awards reception will be on March 3, 2016 at the Coral Gables Country Club. The nomination period is from September 8 to October 16.

Attendance at Community Events. Noreen reported that she attended Commissioner Daniella Levine Cava's South Dade Summit and also a tech summit at the Haitian Heritage Museum. Raisa reported that she attended the CFW's June 30th scholarship presentation, the July 9th public hearing on the CEDAW ordinance, and the July 18th open house at the Safespace Thrift Store. Raisa also attended a July 7th event at the Woman's Club of Hialeah and became a member.

Mara announced that Shaquelle Ballou, one of the CFW scholarship recipients, sent the CFW a thank you card.

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Laura Morilla
Recorder