

COSW Meeting – November 10, 2021
Minutes

1. Call to Order, Welcome and Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 6:39 pm

Welcome to all Commissioners and guests from Chair Amey.

Chair Amey reminded us of the Vacancy of the Secretary position. In the interim, she asked for a volunteer for tonight's meeting. Commissioner Walker offered to take the minutes.

Present

Commissioners: Orly Amey, Chair; Martha Kreeger, Vice-Chair; Haleema Bharoocha-Jobe; Aliza Kazmi; Meredith Walker; Marie Gilmore; Courtney Welch; Erin Scott; Nina Senn (arrived at 6:49 pm after roll call).

SSA Staff: Kim Fogel

Member of the Public: Alison Mata; Carolyn from District 8

Not Present:

Commissioners: Linda Tangren; Yasi Safinya-Davies, Amy Levine, Ge'Nell Gary

Nominated Commissioner, Charlotte Danielsson-Chang, Human Relations Commission, yet to be sworn in was introduced. Chair Amey will reach out to Commissioner Danielsson-Chang soon.

With new Commissioners appointed, Chair Amey asked all Commissioners for a quick introduction including the district represented and their day jobs. Highlights include Chair Amey, currently representing District 1, is looking to be reappointed to represent District 4 due to a recent move; and Commissioner Kazmi currently representing District 2 has moved to District 5 for a new position as Co-Executive Director with Heart Women and Girls. Supervisors in District 2 have asked Commissioner Kazmi to maintain on the Commission for the time being.

And the introduction of the newest nominee, Commissioner Danielsson-Chang, an attorney in business and immigration law.

2. Findings to Continue Meeting by Teleconference

Recommendation to continue meeting by teleconference from Board of Supervisors. Chair Amey motioned for approval with a second from Commissioner Gilmore. Roll Call vote – motion passed.

3. Approval of Minutes, Regular Meeting 10/13/21

Chair Amey stated the minutes were just distributed today and noted a few an item requiring further clarification; more specifically the items related to social media. Therefore, requested the commission table the approval of the minutes until the next meeting.

4. Commissioner Announcements

Commissioner Haleema announced her association, Alliance for Girls, is looking to hire an Associate Program Manager. She has asked the Commissioners to pass the information to qualified candidates.

For the sake of the public guests, SSA Kim Fogel reminded everyone the meeting was being recorded.

Chair Amey announced a special meeting at 8:15 pm following tonight's meeting to discuss our potential plans to have a delegation attend the upcoming Statewide Convening on the Commission on the Status of Women on December 4th.

5. Honoring Late D3 Supervisor Wilma Chan

Chair Amey also acknowledged the passing of Supervisor Wilma Chan and opened the floor for discussion on what we might want to do in honor of Supervisor Chan.

Commissioner Gilmore acknowledged working with Supervisor Chan over the years, especially while serving as Mayor of Alameda. Commissioner Gilmore was and continues to be Supervisor Chan's alternate to the Bay Area Conservation and Development Commission. Supervisor Chan tirelessly fought for early childhood education and will be remembered.

Chair Amey shared the memo from Supervisor Chan's office and noted the passing of Supervisor Chan will give the Commission an opportunity to uplift her legacy of fighting for the population the Commission serves.

A recommendation provided to Chair Amey from Commissioner Tangren suggested a scholarship or an award to someone in the health field.

Commissioner Senn also worked with Supervisor Chan on various projects mostly related to education. Commissioner Senn prepared and read a statement for the Commission to review. Exploring a collaborative with other entities was suggested as well as ensuring the support from County Administrator Susan Muranishi and Supervisor Keith Carson on our final decision.

Chair Amey questioned whether the Commission was hoping the Supervisors would contribute to the \$10K scholarship amount. Commissioner Senn said this is something that would need to be discussed further with the Supervisors and wanted to state the plans that this would be an ongoing scholarship.

Commissioner Bharoocha-Jobe liked the suggestion. She also would like the criteria to include the recipients are women of color. She would also like to ensure some consistency in the selection process if it is a recurring scholarship.

Commissioner Gilmore addressed concerns about the legality of the Commission being able to raise funds for a scholarship. Also, if the funds come from the County, there could be an issue of adding the criteria of ensuring a person of color only as a recipient. So before making any

announcements, these issues need to be addressed. SSA Kim Fogel stated the Commission has participated in scholarships in the past and if we provide her with the drafted materials, she will find out what we can do. Commissioner Senn also offered to investigate what we as a Commission can do. There was also a suggestion to see if the Women's Hall of Fame could help in achieving this goal.

Commissioner Danielsson-Chang would like some of the words describing Supervisor Chan changed for example "quiet power". Although it's fitting for Supervisor Chan, AAPI defines it as being "demure" which is not what we are trying to say. Also, regarding the scholarship, maybe we can partner with the Asian American Pacific Island Association.

Commissioner Gilmore moved to follow up on these proposals that was second by Chair Amey. Motion passed

Commissioner Senn noted the timing of the COSW making a statement. Kim mentioned photos from an event in June of 2019 featuring Supervisor Chan. Chair Amey asked Kim Fogel regarding posting an excerpt from Commissioner Senn's document on the Commission's Facebook page. Commissioner Senn responded to Commissioner Danielsson-Chan concern by stating the term was more of a nod to how Supervisor Chan described herself as someone who worked behind the scenes to get things accomplished. Commissioner Kazmi commented she would prefer the term "rest in power". The final wording will be addressed and approved prior to an official statement.

6. Committee Reports

Chair Amey noted that committee meetings were canceled out of respect to Supervisor Chan.

Vice Chair Kreeger addressed rescheduling the Policy and Advocacy committee to the following week. A personal Zoom account will be used due to a scheduling conflict with the County.

Chair Amey noted the rescheduling of the Communications committee. Topics to be addressed social media, content calendar, virtual solutions, etc.

7. Commissioner Survey and Discussion

Chair Amey added this to the agenda to provide more information about the Commissioners; what does success look like; what are Commissioners working on outside of the Commission, how individual skills and talents can help meet the goals of the Commission, etc. Chair Amey prepared and presented a draft of the survey.

Commissioner Bharoocha-Jobe thought this to be a good idea and thanked Commissioner Amey for her efforts. Commissioner Kazmi also agreed stating the survey is a good idea and offered a few suggestions along with Commissioner Scott.

Commissioner Courtney questioned recruitment efforts for current vacancies.

Commissioner Scott offered to spearhead creating an initial countywide list of community-based organizations for Commissioners to add to.

Commissioner Senn asked for clarification on how the survey responses would be collected. Chair Amey confirmed SSA Kim Fogel will handle responses from Survey Monkey or another application. The survey draft will be sent to the Commissioners for input. Timing of the survey hopefully to be completed prior to the next meeting.

8. Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Tangren was absent but reached out to Chair Amey to advise that she was unable to meet with Commissioner Safinya-Davies to discuss the budget or strategic planning issues.

8a. Strategic Planning

We do not currently have a rough draft outline, but Chair Amey has been doing some research on the activities and documents of other COSW throughout the state. Chair Amey shared a workplan sample from the Santa Clara County COSW. Chair Amey will be meeting with the Chair from the Santa Clara County COSW. Having a workplan might be a useful tool to help our commission stay on task. A suggestion that the Retreat Committee review past meeting minutes and create a workplan based on the initiatives and suggestions made by the COSW might be a good exercise.

Positive feedback was shared by Commissioners Gilmore, Kreeger and Bharoocha-Jobe.

Chair Amey asked SSA Kim Fogel if sub committees can share their ideas with the Commission without violating the Brown Act. Kim mentioned scenarios where it's okay to share but also scenarios where it may be a grey issue. Commissioner Gilmore reminded us that decisions must be done in open meetings only. More communications on the subject will be forthcoming.

9. Open Public Comment

Chair Amey open the floor to comments from the public. None were given.

10. Agenda Building

Chair Amey identified the following items:

- Follow up on honoring Supervisor Chan
- The survey and data from the survey will be on the next agenda.
- Updates on the draft workplan
- Updates on the budget and strategic planning
- Bios and photos of the Commissioners
- Individual follow-ups per committee
 - Meeting with District Supervisors
- Follow up on the letter received from the teacher
- End of session summary
- Incidents of sexual harassment in various school districts

11. Adjournment in honor of late D3 Supervisor Wilma Chan at 8:10 p.m.