

Commission on the Status of Women
Minutes for Regular Meeting on December 9, 2020

In attendance: Commissioner Domínguez, Commissioner Hernández, Commissioner Greenwood, Commissioner Johnson, Commissioner Levine, Commissioner Safinya-Davies, Commissioner Scott, Commissioner Welch, Commissioner Coleman, Commissioner Gary, Commissioner Gilmore, Commissioner Kreeger, Commissioner Walker, and Kim Fogel.

Absent: Commissioner Borjón, Commissioner Gonzales, Commissioner Tangren,

6:37 pm – meeting began.

1. Welcome and Introductions Commissioners Information

Roll call taken. Introductions for the benefit of our new commissioners.

2. Approval of Minutes from the 11/24/2020 Meeting

Domínguez moves for the 11/24/20 minutes, Levine seconds. All ayes. Motion passes. Safinya-Davies was not present for this vote.

3. Treasurer's Report and Budget Update

Item tabled. Borjón not present.

4. Election of COSW Officers.

Nominations received: Domínguez, chair; Greenwood, vice-chair; Borjón, treasurer.

Levine asked whether Scott had been nominated as secretary/

Scott replied no and shared that secretary is a good opportunity for a newer commissioner who is interested in an officer role. Scott also stated that she is willing to be secretary if no one else is interested.

Hernández agreed that secretary is a good opportunity for someone new.

Johnson asked whether anyone else wanted to nominate someone or self-nominate. No one spoke up.

Hernández asked Johnson to clarify next steps.

Fogel shared that the bylaws allows us to take nominations from the floor today and then vote.

Johnson called again for additional nominations.

Levine nominated Scott for secretary.

Scott said she would accept if no one else was interested.

Johnson noted that the vote at this meeting obligates the officers through June 30, 2021.

Domínguez also nominated Scott for secretary. She shared that she confirmed the June 30, 2021 term end date with county counsel.

Johnson called for a vote for the entire slate of candidates. Vote taken by roll call. All ayes. New roles will be in effect at the next meeting.

5. Review / Discuss ACPHD COVID Dashboard

Hernández asked whether everyone has reviewed the dashboard and asked whether we should table this item.

Domínguez shared that the dashboards are not disaggregated by gender and gender identity and thinks that we should raise this issue. She also said that the Pacific Islander information needs to be disaggregated from Asian and that the CDC wasn't breaking the data down by age and that was masking the BIPOC impact.

Scott asked whether someone who already knows the data can make a proposal to COSW for action rather than having all of us become familiar with the data in detail.

Domínguez said that she can make a proposal at the next meeting. She shared that school opening also is an issue. She asked that all commissioners gather articles to share; we can share information outside of meetings, we just can't have a discussion.

Kreeger said that we need to be able to pull percentages based on populations, e.g., what percentage of a population is something happening in? For example, Latinx rate is higher than it appears.

Hernández suggested that we have a in-depth conversation about these issues in January.

Safinya-Davies asked whether we only plan to look at COVID's health impact or whether we also want to look at the impact of sheltering-in-place. The impact of SIP on women has been significant.

Fogel shared that SSA's response largely has been about SIP impact.

Levine said that she thought we would look at the entire impact.

Safinya-Davies asked whether a subcommittee would be willing to look at this.

Johnson asked what we would do with this information.

Scott suggested that we make a list of the data we want the county to track and then hold them accountable.

Safinya-Davies suggested that we would need broad brush information about what's there and what isn't.

Kreeger shared that she raised the mental health issue in schools but it was hard to get data. We can ask the county what's happening and ask them for what we need.

Safinya-Davies said that we can ask the county to find the gaps instead of doing the work ourselves.

Kreeger asked whether data and policy staff from SSA can work with us.

Domínguez suggested that we take this work to a subcommittee and she can bring some data from ACPHD.

Hernández agreed.

Domínguez noted that we should keep Johnson's idea in mind, e.g., to report our findings to the Board of Supervisors.

6. Update on Oakland's Reimagining Public Safety Task Force

Scott gave a presentation about the task force.

Johnson shared that as a resident of unincorporated San Leandro she is interested in work happening in unincorporated areas because most of the residents are Black and Brown people.

Domínguez stated that she could find out more about the Eden area. She knows that they are looking at getting the vaccine there.

Kreeger noted that Eden is subject to the sheriff's jurisdiction.

Safinya-Davies asked whether the task force is considering replacing one police officer for five mental health workers and expressed concern about not paying non-law enforcement staff a fair wage. Is the county 'getting more for less?'

Gilmore asked whether the task force can make recommendations in time for the fiscal year 21-22 budget.

Scott explained the tight timeline and community objections because it seems unrealistic.

Gary shared that Albany has started a task force. They are looking for 14 members and welcome input.

Scott said that it would be interesting and helpful as support for survivor advocates for the commission to have a conversation about defunding the police and related issues to determine where we stand as a body.

Hernández shared that similar conversations about mental health in schools are happening in Fremont Unified. She also asked that Scott share information about the Breathe Act.

7. Committees Planning

Hernández listed COSW's committees and noted that committee descriptions are in the shared documents.

a. Bylaws –

Gilmore summarized progress to date, e.g. the committee continues to do redline edits. She asked how committees will work remotely. Do we need to notice the Zoom meetings?

Fogel shared that the HR Commission is posted their agendas. SSA easily can provide a Zoom link during the business day but only when no one else is using it.

Gilmore asked how we can do this ourselves.

Kreeger suggested that we post the meeting on Facebook Live if SSA's webinar link isn't available.

Fogel reiterated that it's easy for her to set up for meetings during business hours.

Gilmore noted that committee chairs will need to learn how to operate a Zoom webinar.

Kreeger said she can teach people.

Fogel shared that SSA uses the webinar mode for meetings because it gives the host more control.

Domínguez asked whether COSW should purchase a Zoom account.

b. Communications –

Domínguez described the purpose of the committee. She said that she can look into Zoom and Facebook Live as part of the Communications Committee's work. She still intends to establish a Google drive for COSW now that we have approval from county counsel. She would like to stay on as chair.

c. Education and Employment –

Hernández described the purpose of the committee and the event for young women about college scheduled pre-COVID. She noted that we can explore a virtual option for the event and could coordinate with a Silicon Valley leadership group addressing similar topics.

d. Events –

Borjón absent. This committee is inactive currently.

e. Health & Wellness –

Coleman summarized progress to date and future plans.

f. Policy Advocacy –

Domínguez summarized progress to date and future plans. During the March 2020 meeting the committee set priorities for the year. Domínguez said she will send an email regarding a January committee meeting, said that the committee will need a new chair because she is stepping down, and noted that the committee has the capacity to add one more member. Brisceno is the SSA staff person for this committee.

Domínguez noted that members can switch committees but that no committee can have more than 8 members.

Levine asked whether we have a list of COSW's accomplishments.

Fogel shared that the COSW binder has some information and an easy source of information is COSW's annual presentations to the Board of Supervisors.

Levine shared that she remains unclear about what is within our power to accomplish and asked if we still intend to have a retreat.

Domínguez said that county counsel clarified recently what COSW can do. We can issue resolutions but have to go through SSA first and we can be an investigative body in limited ways. We cannot give money to nonprofit organizations. She would like to invite county counsel back to have another conversation.

Scott asked whether we would be interested in trying to amend the administrative code.

Fogel noted that amending the code has been done before.

Scott suggested that we look at the City of Berkeley's Status on the Commission of Women's governing statute for guidance.

Levine asked whether we could have a document summarizing COSW's accomplishments and suggested that Fogel could create it.

Fogel responded that she wasn't sure whether she has the capacity.

Domínguez shared a summary of COSW's governing code section, noting that we have the authority to review discrimination complaints.

Greenwood said that she has some ideas about how to onboard new commissioners using a toolkit and our future Google drive.

Domínguez said that we should have a virtual retreat in March and would work with Greenwood to create an agenda. Everyone should bring ideas for the retreat to our January meeting. Fogel can share information about the facilitators we've already looked into. Also, we may want to do a few mini retreats because being on Zoom all day would be challenging.

Safinya-Davies asked about our goal for the retreat.

Domínguez responded that we would review our mission and create a strategic plan for COSW.

Fogel reminded us to look at our old minutes. We had part one of a retreat and had started planning part two pre-COVID.

Safinya-Davies said that she thinks we need some time and historical background for strategic planning. She suggested that we carve out some time in January to discuss.

Hernández noted that we can discuss the committee agendas at the retreat.

8. Human Relations Commission Report

Johnson reported that the HR Commission hasn't met yet this month so she had nothing to report.

9. Open Public Comment

No public comment.

10. Agenda Building for Next Meeting

Scott will prepare a summary of commission legal structures.

Fogel will work with Domínguez to prepare information about COSW accomplishments.

Domínguez will generate a list of our questions for county counsel during our January meeting and then invite county counsel to present in February.

Fogel and Domínguez discussed new commissioner orientation. Domínguez will contact them.

Kreeger asked whether we planned to meet in our committees before our January meeting and noted that we still need data about women and girls in Alameda County.

11. Adjourn

Hernández asked whether anyone had announcements or any other items for the good of the order. No one spoke up.

Domínguez gave appreciation for the nominating committee.

Safinya-Davies gave appreciation for all new and retiring leaders.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.