

COSW Meeting - June 9, 2021

Minutes

1. Call to Order, Welcome, and Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 6:31pm.

Present:

Commissioners: Maria Dominguez, Chair; Orly Amey, Vice-Chair; Olga Borjon, Treasurer; Meredith Walker; Marie Gilmore; Amy Levine; Linda Tangren; Yasi Safinya-Davies; RocQuel Johnson; Nina Senn; Lucy Hernandez; Martha Kreeger; Ge'Nell Gary (arrived 7:31pm)

SSA Staff: Kim Fogel

Not present:

Commissioners: Courtney Welch; Erin Scott

Aliza Kazmi (she/her), D2 appointee yet to be sworn in, was introduced.

Chair Dominguez announced solidarity with County residents who identify with the LGBTQ+ community. She reminded us that the COSW participated in the Oakland Pride parade previously and encouraged commissioners to check out Pride activities.

2. Approval of Minutes, Regular Meeting 5/12/2021

Commissioner Gilmore made a correction noting a typo on the last page on the Education committee section (should say Gilmore shared that quorums are "not" needed for subcommittee meetings).

Chair Dominguez motioned to approve the minutes, with a second from Commissioner Gilmore. The motion passed with abstention votes from Commissioners Johnson and Tangren. Commissioner Gary was not present for this vote.

3. Guest Speaker District 2 Supervisor Richard Valle

Fogel announced the departure of two former chairs who served the COSW in many capacities. Special guests, families and friends of the outgoing commissioners joined, and Supervisor Valle made commendation remarks to distinguish the departing commissioners: Dominguez with 4 years of dedicated service, and Hernandez with 8 years of dedicated service. Supervisor Valle commended that on behalf of the BOS, both have furthered the mission of the COSW.

Chair Dominguez acknowledged that it was a team effort and acknowledged Commissioner Hernandez as a mentor since day 1. She looks forward to staying connected to COSW through her work with ACDPH to uplift COVID-19 recovery efforts the COSW has already started. Commissioner Hernandez is excited for the new, fresh ideas that will continue in her legacy and is humbled by the recognition for her work.

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Supervisor Valle gave an overview of D2's programs during Covid-19:

- Leadership calls with community leadership to coordinate COVID response, share info and resources, create transparency, and ensure a unified effort to address the pandemic
- Supported small businesses and nonprofits, including grants and increased funding to grant programs, and delivered PPE to front line workers and those without homes

Other D2 initiatives

- Youth and Family initiatives: Raising Leaders - D2-subsidized work experience for at-promise youth, with internships funded by AC Probation department;
- Supporting youth and families to provide resources for immigration defense and representation for those facing deportation;
- The Stack - \$15M raised to co-located community-based support services, \$20M remaining to raise
- Environmental and social justice;
- Supporting Dig Deep farms to distribute healthy food, and working with formerly incarcerated youth to encourage social enterprise and urban farming;
- Niles Canyon Trail, creation of class 1 trail increasing usability and structural improvements, and pedestrian safety;
- Niles Canyon Stroll and Roll - biennial event to learn about Niles Canyon Trail Initiative (84strollroll.com);
- Habitation Restoration in Union City;
- Mental health - improving care at SR jail to ensure working for families and advocates;
- Mental health summit/series;
- Poetry slams to allow for youth expression during shelter in place

Commissioner Borjon thanked Supervisor Valle for sharing what his district is doing. Fogel thanked District 2 staff for their assistance with scheduling and the commendations.

4. Commissioner Announcements

Chair Dominguez and Fogel received follow-up materials from the recent ACCW Bootcamp. Fogel reminded commissioners to sign up for the Bootcamp email list. Commissioner Johnson mentioned she sits on an advisory panel for black maternal health issues and attended one of the recent ACCW women's commission workshops with Commissioner Senn.

Updates from HRC: Recently held a successful 2-day virtual retreat. Supervisor Carson discussed Vision 2026, and a main focus of the retreat was looking at how to continue to support communities within the county. Some commission members have started joining Supervisor Valle in meetings with law enforcement. Commissioner Borjon reminded the COSW that it had wanted to start a project visiting the jail and collaborate on programs working with incarcerated women. She mentioned that perhaps Supervisor Valle could make introductions.

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Commissioner Johnson highlighted that the group has wanted to partner more with other commissions and commented that we should explore potential HRC partnerships to see what it could mean to support our target populations jointly.

Donate Period Updates: The Winton SSA office continues collecting and has let us know that they have quite a bit of items. Chair Dominguez was collecting items from the Jackson and Oakland sites.

Fogel commented that she had some donation items as well.

Commissioner Johnson suggested donating to East Oakland Collective and made a motion for approval that was seconded by Chair Dominguez and passed.

5. Election

Commissioner Walker, representing the Nominating Committee, laid out the rules for a roll call voting system for the annual election.

There was a vacant nomination for secretary and the Bylaws called to allow for nomination from the floor. There were no nominations made or proposed. Commissioners inquired about various options for operating without a Secretary and a calendar rotation was suggested (HRC is doing this). Chair Dominguez encouraged the Bylaws subcommittee to explore the possibilities.

Commissioners agreed to send their vote for each role privately to Kim Fogel via chat and she would tally them, with the Commissioners below receiving the highest number of votes:

Chair: Orly Amey (7)

Yasi Safinya-Davies (5)

Vice Chair: Martha Kreeger (4)

Orly Amey (5 - retracted nomination), Yasi Safina-Davies (2), RocQuel Johnson (1)

Treasurer: Commissioner Linda Tangren agreed to serve in the role and ran unopposed.

The roles are effective July 1, 2021. Members at Large will continue to serve until we have more direction from County Counsel.

Re: Member at large seats, the Commission needs to connect with County Counsel about the status of where we are. Chair Dominguez said the Bylaws state that we vote on off years for the Members at Large, she emailed the trail she has since she's been on the Commission, acknowledging that clarity needs to happen but that the status quo can prevail for now.

Commissioner Gilmore suggested re: Member at Large seats that because we are off track we might rewrite the Bylaws to say that the Commission holds Member at large elections every year as part of the regular annual election since its status is so hard to track, and that the Bylaws subcommittee would bring this conversation back to the Commission.

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6. Black Women's Maternal Care in Alameda County

Vice-Chair Amey shared some resources about recommendations for policymakers from the org Black Women Birthing Justice and it was decided that the Commission would bring back this topic at a future meeting. Vice Chair Amey will reach out to community resources to bring someone in to present to the Commission about black women's maternal care in the County.

7. Treasurer's Report and Budget Update

Commissioner Borjon said she was reviewing her budget files. She hadn't yet received a response about annual fees to the state commission; Chair Dominguez said she would follow up with a contact.

8. Committee Reports

Bylaws: Reported they met on May 27 and decided to bring back a few big picture items to the full commission: junior commission, Member at Large annual elections, leave of absence policy, and whether to incorporate or not.

Chair noted to make sure to add Aliza to the Drive and advised on new member orientation that's hosted by chair. Dominguez would remain available to answer any questions.

Employment and Education: Commissioner Johnson wanted to connect with Commissioner Hernandez to get ideas and understanding. Hernandez reiterated she's a friend of the commission and will be here to see COSW works continue.

Policy and Advocacy: Commissioner Kreeger is reviving the data request/report project from years past. The subcommittee is meeting with new SSA data person Valerie Kane to discuss 2 goals) update the County's report on the status of women and girls, which we don't have, and to make a trifold/executive summary. SSA can only look at data from social services agencies, but can connect with other orgs to get data that fills in gaps from SSA data. Commissioner Kreeger explained her vision for the project: a larger data report with a smaller highlight trifold, designed to inform about issues affecting women and girls in the County and have policy impacts. She placed supporting documents in the Drive.

Commissioner Gilmore expressed excitement and reminded folks that you can't have a quorum present at a subcommittee meeting and to confirm with county counsel. Commissioner Dominguez said she would resend Bylaws, that commissioners could attend as passive observers but there's room for clarification. Ultimately the committee should bring work that needs to include the body back to regular meetings because shared authorship and buy-in is important.

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9. Open Public Comment

There were no members of the public present.

10. Agenda Building

- a. Retreat Planning

11. Adjournment