**San Luis Obispo County Commission on the Status of Women**

**Regular Meeting Minutes**

A meeting of the San Luis Obispo County Commission on the Status of Women was held on

December 7, 2021. This meeting was held by Zoom, and Andrea Chmelik, Chair called the meeting

to order at 5:32 pm.

**Members of the Commission Present or Absent**:

**Roll Call**



|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Commissioner (Initials)** | District | Present | Excused | Absent |
| Nancy Fiske  | 1 | X |  |  |
| Meghan Madsen  | 1 | X |  |  |
| Raechelle Bowlay | 1 | X |  |  |
| Paulla Ufferheide | 2 |  | X |  |
| Dixie Walker  | 2 | X |  |  |
| BethMarie Ward | 2 | X |  |  |
| OPEN SEAT  | 3 |  |  |  |
| Andrea Chmelik | 3 | X |  |  |
| Victoria Condor-Williams | 3 | X |  |  |
| Kathy Veder  | 4 |  | X |  |
| Stacy Meko  | 4 |  | X |  |
| Deb Geaslen  | 4 | X |  |  |
| Franny Arenas  | 5 |  | X |  |
| Shirley Summers  | 5 | X |  |  |
| Sherry Martinez | 5 | X |  |  |

**Guest Speakers/Presentations**

Yessenia Echevarria, Founder of Mujeres De Accion and Cofounder of Paso People’s Action

**Public Comment Period**

No Comments

**Board of Supervisor Highlights**

Commissioner Walker reported that BethMarie Ward was appointed as District 2 Commissioner on November 16, 2021 and Sherry Martinez was appointed as District 5 Commissioner on December 7, 2021. All Commissioners approved both appointments

Board of the Supervisors had three special meetings regarding the redistricting maps. First meeting on November 18th was to review the maps, second meeting was on November 24th to consider the two final maps to be considered, and the third meeting was held to approve the final redistricting map.

Commissioner Walker read an article she found:

Excerpt - A new Ann Arbor Michigan ordinance requires all public bathrooms to provide sanitary products, including pads and tampons, to users at no cost — and it's believed to be the first city in the United States to do so.

**Approval of Meeting Minutes**

A motion was made by Commissioner Walker and seconded by Commissioner Summers to approve the November 2021 minutes.

Motion Passes

**Treasurer’s Report**

Commissioner Summers reported the fiscal year end checking balance as $7,191.25. The new fiscal year begins July 2021. There were no deposits or withdrawals for the months of July and August.

September Banking Activity:

Deposits Totaling $296.00

Withdrawals $47.70

October Banking Activity

Net Deposits from Stripe $367.07

Withdrawals $0.00

Bank Balance: $7,806.62

November Banking Activity

Deposits $0.00

Withdrawals $0.00

Bank Balance: $7,806.62

Financial reports for June – November were provided to the Commissioners.

Discussion: Commissioner Chmelik has the September deposit information (who the donations were from, and which donations were for the Period Product Drive and which donations were to the Commission). She will send the information to Commissioner Summers.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Bowlay and seconded by Commissioner Walker to approve the financial reports.

Motion Passes

**Commissioner Vacancies**

District 3 – Supervisor Dawn Ortiz-Legg

Receive and file

**SLO County Redistricting Update**

Commissioner Chmelik reported that County Council has determined that the District Commissioners will serve out their regular terms regardless of the new map.

**2022 Women’s Wall of Fame**

Commissioner Madsen reported that the committee has received 30 nomination applications for the WWF. The Committee is considering having only the nominees and their family and friends attending.

The Committee will set up a planning meeting sometime in January.

**Women’s March SLO “Engage for Equity” on January 22, 2022 from Noon – 4:00 pm, at Mitchell Park in San Luis Obispo**

*Commissioner Chmelik has stated she is recusing herself from any vote on this item. She is the Executive Co-director of the Women’s March SLO event.*

Discussion: Commissioner Chmelik asked if there were any Commissioners that would be interested in helping with a COSW booth. The commission would have information available on what the COSW does. The California COSW is still running their online survey on The Impact of COVID19 on Women. Commissioner Chmelik can create a QRCode that people can scan with their phone and it would bring them directly to the survey. Other suggestions were to promote the Period Product Drive; to connect with the community and let people know the commission is available to help them; direct them to the website and follow us on social media. It was suggested that the information also be printed in Spanish.

***6:48 pm Commissioner Madsen leaves the meeting***

**End Period Poverty Hygiene Drive**

The Drive was very successful. It is recommended that we do this as an annual drive.

The County libraries (specified locations) will be available for the commission to set up at.

Discussion was to reach out to the Food Bank and the Homeless Coalitions for specific needs. Commissioner Summers gave brief history of the Drive for the new commissioners. She also had a conversation with the President of the AAUW to ask if they could assist the COSW with the Drive. They will discuss this at their next meeting. Commissioner Summers stated that with more organizations assisting the COSW, there could be more locations for drop off of products.

Commissioner Chmelik asked Commissioner Summers to follow up with the organizations that we gave products to for their specific needs and times of need (do they need products more than once a year?) and to follow up with AAUW. This will be helpful to determine how many time a year to have the Drive.

Commissioner Bowlay suggested because International Women’s Day and Women’s History Month are in March, maybe then it may be a good time to promote the Drive. Commissioner Chmelik stated that because March is a very busy month for the COSW, this may not be a good time. Commissioner Bowlay recommended that the commission ask the City Councils and Board of Supervisor for a proclamation. Commissioner Chmelik recommended that we look at other months that highlight Women and try to find a date.

**Update from the Policy & Legislation Committee**

1. Approve Commission Letter Affirming the Support of Reproductive Freedom

The commission voted to draft the letter at the November 2, 2021 meeting.

The commissioners received and discussed the letter that was written by Commissioner Chmelik. It was decided at this meeting that the letter would be signed by the Commission Chair and be sent to all five Supervisors.

A motion was made by Commissioner Walker and seconded by Commissioner Martinez to send the letter to all five Supervisors with only Commissioner Chmelik, Chair, and signature.

Motion Passes

1. Next Steps in asking the SLO County Board of Supervisors to Affirm the Support of Reproductive Freedom with Adopting a Resolution

The Commission voted to ask the Board of Supervisors to adopt a resolution affirming support for reproductive freedom at the November 2, 2021 meeting.

***6:55 pm Commissioner Fiske leaves the meeting***

**Update from the COVID 19 Impact Committee**

Commissioner Condor-Williams referred to Commissioner Bowlay to report on her contact with public county health and any coordination with them on a study on impact of COVID 19 on women and girls.

She reported that the item was a non-emergency item due to the new variant and it was pulled from the agenda. She will continue to follow up and report back to the commission.

Commissioner Condor-Williams stated that it is very difficult to attain research information regarding women’s issues and COVID 19 not only in our county but in other counties and states. Commissioner Condor-Williams has been trying to reach out to minority areas in SLO county regarding the impact of the strategic plan and covid. She would like to reach out to Yessenia Echevarria, a person in Oceano, and a new person in Nipomo with regards to this issue. She stated that the Oceano person has said there is limited to no communication and a lack of trust, but community leaders are working really hard to gain the trust. She stated that she is researching how other countries communicate along with being in contact with a person from the United Nations who is working with the impact of COVID19 and women. She is working with Commissioners Veder and Ward on the exhibit about the impact of the pandemic – importance of connecting with the community through the arts.

Commissioner Chmelik reported that Commissioner Meko sent her an email from the Women’s Legacy Fund which stated that they are interested in partnering in researching the impact COVID and women. Commissioner Chmelik will keep the commission updated.

**Outreach and Inclusion of the Girls in SLO County- Postponed Until January 2022 Meeting**

**ACCW 2021 CEDAW – Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women**

Commissioner Chmelik reported on the workshop and that the commission should have a future discussion about doing this in SLO County. This item will be further discussed at the January 2022 meeting.

**Website Update – No Report**

**Social Media & Newsletter Update**

Commissioner Chmelik is sending out the newsletter.

**Meeting Adjourned**

**Respectfully Submitted**

**Deb Geaslen, Secretary**