



Mayor's Commission on the Status of Women

Meeting Minutes

Monday, April 29, 2013 - 4:30 p.m.

Mayor's Large Conference Room

Mission Statement: To serve as a catalyst for moving all women forward.

Present: Sandy Bartow, Ellen Glasser, Ruth Ann Hepler, Roshanda Jackson, Liza Julao, Donna Kulda, Pixie Larizza, Tongelia Milton, LaDonna Morris, K.C. Padgett, Shirley Reed, Patt Sher, Sabrina Simmons, Dr. Ann Williams

Absent: Keri Kidder, Suzi Lemen, Tammy Morris, Gail Patin

Staff: Alice Checorski

Guests: Debbie Delgado, Public Communications Officer
Shahla Masood, M.D. Shands Jacksonville

- I. Dr. LaDonna Morris, chair, called the meeting to order at 4:40 pm.
- II. Introductions were made and the commissioners welcomed guest Dr. Shahla Masood, 2011 Women's History Month Poster Honoree. Dr. Masood expressed interest in joining the commission. Alice provided her with information on submitting an application through the Mayor's Boards and Commissions web site.
- III. Debbie Delgado introduced herself as the City's Public Communications Officer assigned to the Mayor's Boards and Commissions. She is the contact for media releases, media requests, event requests, etc. She will work with the staff liaison to facilitate the commission's media communications through print, radio and television.

Ellen Glasser provided the following questions previously raised by the commission:

1. If the commission is co-hosting an event (whether or not the Mayor is attending), how do we get the word out to the community? Debbie said she will assist with media communications.
2. Can we get create a listserv in order to blast email information to other organizations? Previously, LaDonna Morris utilized a listserv through The Women's Center at FSCJ in order to share information. However, LaDonna's term on the commission expires in May. Debbie will check with IT on this request.
3. How can we use social media, i.e. Facebook, Twitter, etc. to raise awareness of women's events? Ellen suggested the creation of an online calendar for commission and other community events. Roshanda Jackson reported that Fresh Ministries has a

massive email network of non-profit and other organizations. All commissioners were encouraged to share information via their individual resources.

4. The commissioners suggested partnering with a Times-Union blogger assigned strictly for women's issues.
5. The monthly commission bulletins should be sent by the liaison to Debbie Delgado for approval. This should expedite the turnaround time.

The commissioners thanked Debbie for attending the meeting and providing support.

- IV. Ellen Glasser moved to approve the minutes from the February 25, 2013 Commission Meeting and Roshanda Jackson seconded the motion. Dr. Ann Williams requested an amendment to read: "Dr. Williams was *very apologetic*...." The motion carried unanimously as amended. Roshanda Jackson moved to approve the minutes from the March 25, 2012 Commission meeting and Pixie Larizza seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

V. Chair's Report

LaDonna Morris reported that the Equal Pay Day luncheon was a success. As a result, many of the attendees were interested in joining the commission. She referred them to the Boards and Commissions web site application process.

At the May meeting, we will update the Mayor. Shirley Leckie Reed is updating the statistics. Shirley, Donna, K.C. and LaDonna agreed to form a Statistical Report Task Force to work on the updates. Shirley will have a draft for this ad hoc committee in two weeks, May 13, 2013. Alice will send it out. The committee will review and meet on Wednesday, May 15th, 2 pm, FSCJ, South Campus, 11901 Beach Blvd., Building E, Room 105.

During the May 20, 2013 commission meeting, we will report key points and committee updates to the Mayor (or Mia Jones).

- VI. Nominating Committee (Sandy Bartow, Suzi Lemen, Patt Sher)
Sandy Bartow distributed nomination forms to the commissioners. The committee will prepare a slate to vote on at the May meeting. Commissioners can self-nominate.

VII. Committee Reports

Advocacy and Education (Pixie Larizza)

Each year, the Mayor's Commission on the Status of Women partners with the Women's Center of Jacksonville, the American Association of University Women, and the Rosanne R. Hartwell Women's Center at Florida State College at Jacksonville to host Jacksonville's Equal Pay Day event which was held on April 25, 2013. The issue of unequal pay for women is highlighted (less than 80 cents on the dollar compared to men) and local women who were successful in careers traditionally dominated by men receive Spirit of Rosie Awards. The panel discussed the fact that younger women do not know who *Rosie the Riveter* is. This year's winners at the luncheon on April 25 were (left to right): Meltonia Jenkins Dubois (Non-Traditional Award) of Jenkins Barbecue fame; Fernet Moore and Eve Caldwell (Pioneer

Award) who founded Waverly Academy, the first and only all-girl STEM charter middle school in Duval County; and Mary Hafeman (Glass Ceiling Award), an award-winning PGA and LPGA golf pro.

Alice will post the Equal Pay Day information on the MCSW web site.

Celebration

LaDonna reported that the money in the Trust Fund for Women's History Month has been expended with this year's event. We have \$1,000 for the Town Hall Forum; which the donor, former commissioner Donna Ghanayem, Shands, is agreeable to being used for a different event if the commission decides to go in another direction.

Communications

Nothing further to report other than the issues discussed earlier with Debbie Delgado.

VIII. Liaison's Report

Alice distributed copies of the General Fund Budget in addition to the Trust Fund Budget.

She reported on the estimated cost for the Women's History Month event over the last 3 years, which was approximately \$2,500, including the catering invoiced through UNF.

Ellen moved to expend any unused General Fund money to print additional copies of the Women's Organizations Directory. Ann Williams inquired about adding other organizations. After a discussion, she agreed to provide an intern and to work with Pixie Larizza to update the directory. Liza Julao seconded the motion, which carried unanimously. The Mayor's introductory letter will also need to be updated. LaDonna or Alice will send the directory to Ann and Pixie to update.

IX. Old Business

Women's Launch Pad

Last month, the commissioners discussed hosting a "Women's Launch Pad" networking event (as a pre-cursor to a Town Hall Forum) to facilitate a dialog with other women's organizations and create a synergy in the community. Pixie recommended having a "soft" agenda to talk about the MCSW and what other organizations do. The commission should pursue small sponsorships for food. The commission should invite the Mayor. Sabrina suggested networking through the First Coast Diversity Council, comprised of 35 organizations with a focus on women employee groups.

Donna, Ellen, Roshanda, Sabrina and Pixie will form a subcommittee to develop a vision for the event, including a new name. The concept will be presented to Mia Jones at the next commission meeting. The meeting will be held on Friday, May 10, 2013, 11 am at City Hall. Alice will reserve the location and post the meeting notice.

Additionally, LaDonna Morris should follow up with the Mayor regarding his commitment to raise funds (\$25,000) for the Town Hall Forum.

X. New Business

Shirley Leckie Reed reminded the commissioners that the Florida legislature's expansion of Medicaid will impact health care access by women. They are passing up \$51 billion over a ten-year period. She suggested contacting your legislators.

Roshanda Jackson inquired about any follow up from the Florida Commission's conference call. Alice will contact the Florida Commission and request minutes or notes from the February 19, 2013 call.

Donna Kulda asked about the National Association of Commissions for Women (NACW) annual conference. The commissioners considered hosting this event previously, but the commitment of time, fundraising and collaboration determined it was not feasible at that time.

Ann Williams invited the commissioners to participate in the 2013 Mothers in Prison-Children in Crisis Spa Party on May 11, 2013 sponsored by the Sisters OICU, Inc. Ministry. Information on this event was distributed previously to the commissioners.

LaDonna announced that nominations are being accepted for the Florida Women's Hall of Fame. A few of the commissioners were interested in nominating local women. The nominations are due by July 15, 2013.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:15 pm.

Next Commission Meeting - **Monday, May 20, 2013 - 4:30 pm**

Mayor's Large Conference Room

*Committees will meet from 4-4:30 pm. in Exam Room 3, Mezzanine, City Hall