



Mayor's Commission on the Status of Women

Meeting Minutes

Monday, May 20, 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, Ruth Ann Hepler, Roshanda Jackson, Liza Julao, Keri Kidder, Donna Kulda, Pixie Larizza, Suzi Lemen, Tongelia Milton, LaDonna Morris, K.C. Padget, Shirley Reed, Dr. Ann Williams

Absent: Tammy Morris, Gail Patin, Patt Sher, Sabrina Simmons

Staff: Alice Checorski

Guests: Mia Jones, Executive Director, Mayor's Boards & Commissions
Angela Spears, Special Assistant to the Mayor/ Community Engagement Officer
Betzy Santiago, Special Assistant to the Mayor/International Officer
Oleta Riggs, Florida Department of Juvenile Justice

- I. Dr. LaDonna Morris, chair, called the meeting to order at 4:30 pm. She welcomed Oleta Riggs, guest.
- II. Sandy Bartow, chair of the nominating committee thanked Suzi Lemen and Patt Sher for their participation in the nomination process to elect the 2013-14 Commission Chair, 1st Vice Chair, 2nd Vice Chair and Secretary. Sandy briefly reviewed the officers' responsibilities as outlined in the by-laws before asking if there were any nominations from the floor. There were none. The slate of 2013-14 officers was presented and the commissioners cast their votes. Alice Checorski, liaison, tallied the votes. The following commissioners were elected:

Pixie Larizza, Chair
Donna Kulda, 1st Vice Chair
Roshanda Jackson, 2nd Vice Chair
Tongelia Milton, Secretary
- III. After a discussion, Sandy Bartow moved to approve the minutes from the April 29, 2013 commission meeting with one amendment, page 4, X. New Business "They are passing up \$51 billion over a ten-year period." Shirley Leckie Reed seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.
- IV. The commissioners welcomed the Mayor's staff, Mia Jones, Angela Spears and Betzy Santiago. Introductions were made and the 2013-14 officers were announced.
- V. Dr. LaDonna Morris, chair, presented an overview of the commission's goals and actions for 2012-13 to Mia Jones. She stated that new funding will be needed in order to continue the Women's History Month event in partnership with the Thomas G. Carpenter Library at UNF,

where the permanent collection of commemorative posters is on display. (approximately \$2,500) for this event). Previously, funds set aside in the Trust Fund Account for this event were used but are now depleted.

Additional funding/sponsorships are needed if the commission hosts a Town Hall Forum (\$25,000). Mia Jones said the best approach is to look at the resources around the table. Dr. Morris stated approval of the draft donation letter is still pending.

Dr. Morris thanked the administration for appointing new members to the commission. They would like to expand the membership, but Mia Jones responded they are currently looking at the size of all Boards and Commissions before proceeding.

Roshanda Jackson stated the commission would like to become a priority in the Mayor's Office. We are here to advocate and educate, which is our mission and to become known in conjunction with the Mayor's goals.

Dr. Morris asked if the commission has authority to act on political issues, i.e. the failure to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment in Florida. Mia Jones responded we try to keep boards from being political advocates. You would have to educate and advocate on both sides, pro and con. Prior to proceeding, the Office of General Counsel and the Ethics Compliance Office would need to review the request.

Shirley Leckie-Reed presented the commissions' Annual Statistical Report to the Mayor. She thanked Mia Jones for her advocacy in the area of health care. Shirley referred to Page 4 of the report, *What Needs Attention*. She highlighted information from her extensive research and concluded with recommendations.

Mia Jones stated that the Mayor is committed to improving the quality of life for all of Jacksonville. She stated that health care is her passion and advised the commission that we now have a woman as Director of the Duval County Health Department. (Dr. Kelli Wells)

- VI. Alice Checorski presented a framed poster of the 2013 Women's History Month honorees to Mia Jones for Mayor Brown.

Mia presented an award to Dr. LaDonna Morris, outgoing chair for her service and commitment to the commission over the past several years.

Dr. Morris presented a personal "Rosie" Award to Alice Checorski, thanking her for her outstanding support as commission liaison.

- VII. The commissioners asked Angela Spears how they can interact with her as Community Outreach Officer. Ms. Spears works with different groups on priorities such as education, quality of life, military, etc. She will advise the commission of pertinent outreach activities via her email distribution through Pixie Larizza, chair. Betzy Santiago explained she works with international groups including the Mayor's Asian American Advisory Board and the Mayor's Hispanic Advisory Board. She is the liaison to the Jacksonville Sister Cities Association.

VIII. Liaison's Report

Alice Checorski reported on the feedback received from Debbie Delgado, Public Affairs Officer, regarding their request for a listserv account as well as information on other social media access. Further research and approval is pending.

IX. Old Business

Dr. Ann Williams provided a sample of the Directory of Women's Organizations she and her staff are updating. The deadline for completion is August 1, 2013. Alice will request an updated letter from the Mayor to be included in the Directory.

Donna Kuldau reviewed the minutes from the May 10, 2013 committee meeting for the proposed networking event. The committee suggested several dates in October, depending on the Mayor's calendar. A discussion of the name for the event was tabled until the next commission meeting.

X. New Business

Donna Kuldau moved to nominate Sandy Bartow for the Florida Women's Hall of Fame. Pixie seconded the motion, which carried unanimously. Nominations are due to the Florida Commission on the Status of Women in July.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:10 pm.

Next Commission Meeting - **Monday, June 24, 2013 - 4:30 pm**

Mayor's Large Conference Room

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