

Mayor’s Commission on the Status of Women

Meeting Minutes

Monday, January 23, 2012 - 4:30 p.m.

Mayor’s Large Conference Room

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

Present: Sandy Bartow, Donna Ghanayem, Ellen Glasser, Theresa Graham, Suzi Lemen,

Teri Ketchum, Donna Kuldau, Deidre Lane, Pixie Larizza, LaDonna Morris,

Patt Sher

Absent: Liza Julao

Staff: Alice Checorski, Daphne Colbert

Guests: Gail Patin, Hubbard House

Marquita Guillory, Continental Society, Inc.

Frances Sneed, Continental Society, Inc.

Cynthia Whitaker, Continental Society, Inc.

Presentation: Dianne Larson, President, Zonta Club of Jacksonville

1. The January 23, 2012 meeting of the Mayor’s Commission on the Status of Women was called to order by Suzi Lemen, chair at 4:35 pm.
2. Suzi welcomed everyone and introduced the new commissioners:

* Donna Kuldau
* Pixie Larizza
* Patt Sher (who joined the meeting in progress)

1. Dianne Larson, President, Zonta Club of Jacksonville, provided background information on the organization which was established in Jacksonville in 1940. Their mission is *“To promote change for women in the areas of education, health, economic status and human rights.”* It is one of over 1,200 Zonta International Clubs in 64 countries with United Nations status. Some of the organization’s projects include Safe Cities in Guatemala City, reduce violence in Rwanda, and aim to decrease the mother-child transmission of HIV in Rwanda.

On the local level, they provide service and advocacy for women in collaboration with Hubbard House, I.M. Sulzbacher Center for the Homeless, PACE Center for Girls, etc. Human rights are very important to Zonta. They continue to increase awareness of human trafficking both locally and internationally. Additionally, each year college scholarships are awarded to young women. Zonta members are currently promoting grass roots efforts to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment.

Suzi thanked Dianne for the presentation and asked how this commission can help the Zonta Club. Dianne stated help is needed in the areas of fundraising, service projects and membership recruitment. Annual membership is $200 with an initial $100 fee. The Club meets on the third Tuesday every month at 6:15 p.m. in the Riverfront Café in the Haskell Building. The meeting is open to the public.

Dianne closed by saying that the word “Zonta”, which is a Dakota Indian word, means *honest and truthful*. She thanked the commissioners for inviting her to make a presentation on this organization.

1. Sandy Bartow moved to approve the minutes from the October 24, 2011 and November 28, 2011 commission meetings. Donna Ghanayem seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously. Both sets of minutes were approved as submitted.

1. Committee Reports

* Advocacy & Education

LaDonna stated Equal Pay Day will be held on April 27, 2012 at the FSCJ Event Center, downtown campus. She asked Alice if the commission still has a budget for the Equal Pay Day Rosie Award plaques. Alice responded that the awards are budgeted in the current fiscal year commission budget. LaDonna moved that the commission purchase the plaques for the 2012 Equal Pay Day awardees; Donna seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. Christine Tyler is working with LaDonna on this event. Nominations are due March 1st.

LaDonna was informed that the commission is ineligible to apply for the TPC grant because we are not a non-profit, 501c3 organization.

She suggested we invite the Mayor to the May 21st commission meeting to provide updates. Additionally, this is the 40th anniversary of the commission.

* Celebration

The 2012 Women’s History Month Reception is scheduled for Tuesday, March 13, 2012, 5:30-7 pm at UNF, Thomas G. Carpenter Library, 3rd floor where the permanent collection of posters is housed. Nomination forms have been sent out and the City’s press release is forthcoming. After discussion, it was decided to extend the deadline for nominations to 5 p.m. Monday, February 6, 2012.

As a reminder, current commissioners are not eligible for nomination. Suzi Lemen, commission chair, appointed the selection committee: Teri Ketchum, Sandy Bartow, Donna Ghanayem, Pixie Larizza and Suzi Lemen. The selection committee will receive the nominations via email from Alice immediately after the February 6th deadline. They will hold a **conference call** on **Tuesday, February 14, 2012 at 1:30 pm.** to report their selections. It was suggested that the person who nominates an honoree be invited to present the award.

Alice provided an event checklist to the Celebration committee members and stated she will request the City photographer’s services during the event. Daphne Colbert, assistant to Mia Jones, Executive Director, Mayor’s Boards and Commissions, reported that the Mayor has recommended a speaker for the event. Daphne is waiting for confirmation as to the availability of Sonia Jackson Myles, author of *The Sister Accord*. Ms. Myles’ web site is www.thesisteraccord.com.

* Communications

Ellen distributed a draft of Bulletin 4, which will be submitted for approval and posting. Additionally, she made a recommendation that a subscription link be added to the commission’s web page citing the Jacksonville Human Rights Commission web site as an example. Alice is inquiring about this feature. Ellen would still like to explore a calendar function for the commission’s web site.

City Council recently passed a resolution under the Jacksonville Human Rights Commission approving the inclusion of sexual orientation in protected classes. Ellen suggested this also be incorporated in the commission’s by-laws.

1. Town Hall Forum

Suzi stated the commission is planning to have a Town Hall Forum, which would be broadcast on public television (WJCT). Panelists will speak on women’s issues previously identified by the commissioners. Attendance would be about 200 people. The fundraising goal was previously identified as $20,000. Alice reported we have $1,000 in the Trust Fund for this event and a verbal commitment of $1,000 from the Women’s Business Center (Sandy Bartow).

Deidre stated the recommendation was to find resources to target to assist us with fundraising. Each commissioner was asked to pursue their contacts within corporations that have women’s initiatives.

An outline of the event will be sent to the commissioners and discussed at the next meeting.

1. Liaison’s Report

Daphne Colbert announced that the commission has been approved to have a Facebook page. She will continue to work with Alice and the City’s web master on this project.

Additionally, board appointments are continuing to be reviewed. Gail Patin will be receiving a phone conference interview in the next few days.

Alice will continue to work on the Women’s History Month checklist. Deidre Lane asked to assist with the name badges. Alice also reported that membership renewal in the National Association of Women’s Commissions (NACW) has been submitted for processing.

1. Old Business

None to report.

1. New Business

Theresa Graham announced her resignation from the commission effective with today’s meeting. She expressed that she enjoyed her time serving, but that she is in transition and unable to continue the commitment. Suzi thanked Theresa for her service.

Chair’s Closing Remarks

Suzi thanked the commissioners for attending today’s meeting and especially the newly appointed commissioners who will hopefully bring new energy and new ideas. She asked everyone to continue recruiting new commissioners, particularly looking for diversity among our membership.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:55 pm.

Next Commission Meeting:

Monday, February 27, 2012

4:30-6 pm