



COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

A Pasco County Board of County Commissioners Advisory Board

Meeting Location: Pasco County Utilities Administration Building
19420 Central Boulevard, Land O'Lakes, FL 34637

MINUTES

November 6th 2017: 1:30 pm. – 2:30 p.m.

I. **Call to Order:** Amanda Colon @ 1:31 pm

II. Commission Roll Call/Sign In

- a. Amanda Colon
- b. Gail Armstrong
- c. Aleacia Guy
- d. Cheryl Pollock
- e. Kelly Sinn
- f. Kelly Mothershead
- g. Stefanie Pontlitz
- h. Rosario Torres
- i. Lisa Richardson
- j. Nicole Newlon
- k. Melanie Storm

Also in attendance: Commissioner Kathryn Starkey and Johanna Rodriguez, Pasco County Board of County Commissioners.

III. Public Comment

- a. Elaine Tucknarry, President, Pasco NOW
 - i. Elaine expressed her opinion that the purpose of this Commission should be addressing difficult issues, e.g. domestic violence, low wages, paid family leave, wage disparity, etc. Elaine requested that the Commission consider "important, pressing issues vs. 'nice to have' Hall of Fame recognition."
- b. Brandi Geoit: West Coast AIDS Foundation. Voiced agreement with Elaine.
- c. Kelly Smith: Expressed need for strong, independent women to come together.

IV. Approval of Minutes from Prior Meeting

Stefanie's name spelled wrong under October's Approval of Minutes section. Motion made by Nicole to approve the Minutes with the one correction. Aleacia seconded. Motion carried.

V. Old Business:

- a. Suggested priorities updates from task force leaders:

- i. Health and Safety (Cheryl Pollack):
Cheryl reported that Health and Safety task force conducted a survey, which included all of the topics/issues within the Health and Safety area. Survey results reflect that the top two areas are:
 - 1. domestic and sexual violence, and 2. access to health care. Next steps will be to gather data, i.e. who has access, what are the specific issues, and actionable items. Also, task force to gain a more specific understanding of what the problem is and looking at existing resources within the County. This data will then inform future decision-making before making recommendations to the Board.

- ii. Education (Stefanie Pontlitz):
Stefanie reported that the Education task force identified the top three needs to be considered, which are:
 - 1. Affordable child care
 - 2. Career guidance, education & training opportunities for single moms, empty nesters and seniors
 - 3. Mentoring and education for vulnerable youth.This team will meet next week to begin a current resource list.

- iii. Economic Prosperity/Promotion (Nicole Newlon)
Nicole presented a comprehensive statistical report pertaining to women and economic prosperity. For the year 2018, the Economic Prosperity subgroup intends to focus on women entrepreneurship, with an emphasis on financial education/literacy.

VI. New Business

- a. Report to BCC on Progress and Topics for Consideration:
Sub-committees have picked priorities and will identify both short- and long-term emphasis. Motion by Stefanie that we take the top priorities from each sub-committee to report to the BOCC. Seconded by Kelly. Motion carried.
Johanna will seek approval to put this on the BOCC agenda for the January 9th, 2018, meeting in Dade City (11:30 am time slot).
 - i. Commissioner Starkey shared her perspective of using an award as a platform to educate the public about an issue or to use the funds to support a need.

- b. Conducting a Fundraiser & “Woman of the Year” Award (event guidelines found in the Commission on Status of Women Handbook)
 - i. Amanda expressed her view that the Commission should deliver a few “successes” before attempting to conduct a fundraiser or nominate a “Woman of the Year”. Kelley shared that the Commission should focus on priorities and achievement, which will then help garner support for a fundraiser. A motion was made by Amanda to table this discussion until next year after the Commission has set its priorities. Seconded by Kelly. Motion carried.
- c. Other New Business:
 - i. Johanna Rodriguez reported that the CSW approved minutes have been posted on the Commission webpage, as well as a picture of the Commission meeting and details of when and where the Commission meets. Contact Johanna for other needs.
- d. Commissioner Starkey discussed a special luncheon which is hosted by the State Commission on Status of Women each spring. She encouraged the Commission to consider participating. Kathryn or Chris will confirm and provide further information. Commissioner Starkey also suggested that we reach out to the Hillsborough Commission to learn what area(s) they are addressing.

VII. Closing:

- a. Review of Assignments:
 - Sub-committees will meet prior to the Commission meeting next month and will be prepared to present any roadblocks or needs to be addressed.
- b. Next Meeting, December 4th. Same time and location.

VIII. Adjournment:

Meeting adjourned at 2:09 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Nancy Dougherty.