

Commission on the Status of Women

Minutes

March 5, 2018 - 1:30 PM

Pasco County Utilities Administration Building
19420 Central Boulevard
Land O Lakes, FL 34637

I. Call to Order: by Amanda Colon at @1:38 pm

II. Commission Roll Call/Sign In

1. Amanda Colon
2. Gail Armstrong
3. Lisa Richardson
4. Kelly Sinn
5. Suzanne Legg
6. Aleacia Guy
7. Rosario Torres
8. Melanie Storms
9. Kelly Mothershead
10. Nancy Dougherty
11. Stefanie Pontlitz
12. Nicole Newlon
13. Cheryl Pollock

Also in attendance: Johanna Rodriguez, Pasco County Board of County Commissioners.

III. Public Comment

- a. Brandi Geott: VP Membership, Pasco County Now. Presented information on events being held during March, which is Women's History Month. Brandi also presented statistics pertaining to the rising Hep C epidemic in our County, and the opinion that the State is still not addressing this crisis issue. Asking the Commission to prioritize aiding in this endeavor.
- b. Heather St. Amand: Works for Our Future and is a Board member of Organize Florida. Heather expressed the desire to have greater diversity represented on the Board, particularly from the transgender population.

IV. Approval of Minutes from Prioritizing

Motion to approve minutes by Kelly and Aleacia seconded. All in favor and motion carried.

V. Old Business:

- a. Report to BCC on Top Priorities and Progress took place on Tuesday, February 20, 2018, at 11:30am in New Port Richey.
 - i. Amanda provided a brief overview/introduction first, then each subcommittee Chair (Cheryl, Stefanie, Nicole) were on hand to answer any questions. Thank you to Amanda for excellent presentation on behalf of the Commission.
- b. Other Old Business
 - i. Kelly/Amanda to reach out to Beth Cardenas at Hillsborough County to pursue setting up a luncheon with the Hillsborough Commission on the Status of Women to share and learn from one another. Lunch date and time to be sent out to the CSW. Elizabeth will come here, so as not to violate Sunshine Law. Joanna will reach out to Elizabeth to confirm when she can attend.

VI. New Business

- a. Nomination of new Board (at February's meeting)
 - i. Kelly was nominated for Chair by Stefanie. Kelly accepted.
 - ii. Nicole was nominated for Vice Chair by Kelly. Nicole accepted.
 - iii. Suzanne was nominated for Secretary by Lisa. Suzanne accepted.
 - iv. No additional nominations were emailed to Johanna or suggested at this meeting.
 - v. Approval of new Board; all in favor. New slate approved.
- b. Stefanie Pontlitz announced that she has new employment with Youth & Family Alternatives, and Alice Delgado will assume this position on the Commission on behalf of The United Way. Stefanie shall be missed.
- c. Other new business:
 - i. Meeting Dates & Times
 - 1. Commission will continue to meet on the 1st Monday of each month, with two exceptions: *NO* Meeting in July or September.
 - 2. Members expressed an interest in changing the meeting start time to 2:30pm, beginning with the April meeting. Johanna will check room availability. If confirmed, she will update the website reflecting the meeting dates and the time change.
- d. Discussion regarding the Women's Symposium on Harassment Prevention. Suzanne Legg reviewed this opportunity. The event will occur on April 3rd, 6:30pm at the Pasco Hernando State College West Campus. There will be a panel discussion.
 - i. Discussed how the CSW will take part in the symposium; via co-hosting the event alongside PHSC and For the Girls International as well as promoting and being in attendance.
 - ii. Johanna obtained permission/approval for the use of the Pasco County BOCC logo on event promotion materials.
 - iii. Permission from the CSW is given to Johanna to add the event onto the CSW county webpage.

- iv. Johanna reached out to the Florida Commission on the Status of Women. Their Executive Director, Kelley Sciba, has offered the Florida Commission's support for the Symposium. One of the Commissioner's is a professional trainer/speaker that specializes in harassment training and prevention. Suzanne Legg will reach out to their Executive Director.
 - v. Suzanne requested strong representation by this Commission, as well as encouraging all members to reach out to their circles of influence to invite participation.
 - vi. Please consider what questions may come about at the event and email those ideas to Suzanne. This will assist in honoring the event's 90-minute program length.
 - vii. Suzanne will send the promotional flier to Johanna, who will then forward it to all members for distribution.
 - viii. Johanna has put out the press release (see copy in today's agenda packet).
- e. Update from Committee Chairs
- i. Cheryl: Health & Safety
 1. Cheryl announced that Aleacia has agreed to now lead this group.
 2. Assessment/survey is being distributed throughout the County. Cheryl will send out the link again to strengthen the response pool.
 3. Responding to Brandi's public comments: Nicole expressed that the Hep C stats that Brandi provided had us "caught off-guard". There needs to be more questions asked; i.e. Why have the numbers gone up this high?...are we screening more?
 4. Some solutions to consider: additional infectious disease physicians in the County to address this population (currently only four seeing patients), better leveraging of partnerships in the community, and greater education of our legislators.
 5. Note: The Health Department receives funding from State and Federal sources. Premiere Medial receives no funding for infectious diseases. Also, funding is now getting cut.
 6. Nicole explained that Dade City is involved in Multi-City litigation pertaining to opioid abuse and its ties into other issues (i.e. increased crime). Nicole will reach out to Commissioner Starkey, on this matter and will give us an update. The Dade City Commission meets next week, and Nicole will enter conversation with them about these correlations. Nicole is willing to represent the Commission along with Kathryn Starkey. Amanda will research if there are other judicial circuits involved and if the City of New Port Richey is participating. Johanna shared that the Department of Justice is joining in this as well.
 7. It was suggested that Monica Rousseau (ASAP) be participating as well.
 - ii. Kelly announced a Women's History month event, scheduled on March 21st, 11a.m. panel discussion at PHSC – Wesley Chapel, "We Can Do It"

- iii. Lisa Richardson gave out an invitation to the 2018 Women's History Month Summit on Tuesday March 20th 10a.m. – 3p.m. at the PHSC, Dade City Campus. Luncheon is 11a – 12:30p; must RSVP for that lunch.

VII. Closing

- a. Review of Assignments
- b. Agenda for Next Meeting
- c. Next CSW meeting is: Monday, April 2, 2018. New start time 2:30p.m.

VIII. Adjournment:

Meeting adjourned at 2:18pm

Minutes respectfully submitted by Nancy Dougherty.