



SANTA MONICA COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN
APPROVED MINUTES

March 12, 2003

A Regular Meeting of the Santa Monica Commission on the Status of Women was held on Wednesday, March 12, 2003 beginning at 7:00 PM, to discuss the following business:

1. Call to Order:
Chair Darlene Evans called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.
2. Inspiration – women’s history
This item was heard after Item 9A.
Commissioner Hayes-Raitt spoke about her recent experiences while traveling to Baghdad, Iraq, as part of a nine-American delegation that met with Iraqi women about the effects of war on women and children.
3. Roll Call
Commissioners Present:
Chair Evans – left at 7:30
Commissioner Hayes-Raitt – arrived at 7:15 p.m.
Commissioner Lipson
Commissioner Preston
Commissioner Sahagún
Commissioner Starr
Commissioner Cook – arrived at 7:40 p.m.
Commissioner Lipton – left at 8:15 p.m.
Commissioner Skulski

Also Present:
Councilmember Michael Feinstein
Tracy Scruggs, Human Services Supervisor
Silvana Quesada, Human Services Staff Assistant
4. Approval of Minutes from February 12, 2003
A motion by Commissioner Preston seconded by Commissioner Starr to accept the February 12, 2003 minutes as presented was approved unanimously by voice vote.
5. Public Input
There was no public input.

6. Announcements and Correspondence
Chair Evans and Vice Chair Lipson made several announcements and read correspondence concerning issues of interest to the Commission.
7. Committee/Liaison Reports
 - A. Report and possible action on the Child Care and Early Education Task Force (CCEETF) –
Commissioner Starr reported on the latest meeting she attended and indicated that there are serious issues surrounding childcare cuts proposed by the State. She discussed the potential negative impacts of budget realignment and encouraged Commissioners to talk to members of the community, friends, relatives, parents, and teachers to pressure elected officials to avoid budget cuts to childcare and early education. Commissioner Starr distributed information from the California Partnership for Early Care and Education with information, data, and addresses to send letters of support.
 - B. Report on the ACCW – Commissioner Hayes-Raitt
There was no report.
 - C. Report on the Domestic Violence Network – Commissioner Sahagún
This report was combined with Item 9A.
Commissioner Sahagún introduced Ms. Mimi Lynd, Coordinator of the Westside Domestic Violence Network. Ms. Lynd provided Commissioners with information about the history of COSW's support in creating the network in 1990. Ms. Lynd spoke about the Network's advocacy, training and networking efforts.

Ms. Lynd invited Commissioners to participate in the upcoming Conference that will be hosted by Casa del Mar in Santa Monica on June 9, 2003; approximately 400 Domestic Violence Network members will be invited to this event.
 - D. Report on meetings with council members – Commissioner Hayes-Raitt
Commissioner Hayes-Raitt provided a summary of the highlights of the individual meetings held by Commissioners with Councilmembers Genser, McKeown, Bloom and O'Connor.
8. Old Business
 - A. Continued discussion and possible action related to COSW budget priorities and expenditures for FY 2002-2003.
Commissioners revisited the FY 2002-2003 Commission budget and decided to maintain the previously selected line items.

A motion by Commissioner Hayes-Raitt seconded by Commissioner Lipson to approve \$350 for Commissioners Skulski and Sahagún to attend the Women's Action Lobby Day in Sacramento on May 15, 2003 was approved unanimously by voice vote. Silvana Quesada will proceed to make travel arrangements.

- B. Continued discussion and possible action on the COSW draft report on the status of women in Santa Monica.

Commissioner Sahagún and Lipton reported on the status of this report. The Coro Fellow cannot work on the report and Commissioners are now considering USC and UCLA students. The committee will meet with Tracy Scruggs to review procedures regarding contracting with consultants to analyze data and prepare the final report.

- C. Continued discussion and possible action about the COSW's participation in a Women's History Month event.

There will not be a public celebration this year except for a private meeting of present and former Commissioners on March 22, 2003 at Back on Broadway. Commissioners will cover their own expenses.

In addition, Tracy Scruggs will coordinate with the Mayor's office to have Commissioner Hayes-Raitt say the pledge of allegiance at the beginning of a City Council meeting or to receive a proclamation from the Mayor in acknowledgment of Women's History Month

- D. Continued planning, discussion and possible action on the work life survey. Commissioner Skulski presented a proposal from Execusurv, a company that specializes in collecting and analyzing data and other logistics associated with surveys. Commissioners Hayes-Raitt and Sahagún provided suggestions and names of other companies that do this type of work. The committee will continue to meet and move forward on this project.

Tracy Scruggs reminded Commissioners about the City's fiscal procedures for contracting with consultants or other vendors.

- E. Discussion and possible action regarding the new commissioner's orientation and recognition for departing commissioners. (Commissioner Lipson)

Commissioner Lipson reported that she will orient commissioners together with Chair Evans beginning at 6:00 p.m. at the April 9, 2003 commission meeting.

9. New Business

- A. Presentation from Jerry Rubin related to the formation of a Santa Monica Youth Commission. Discussion and possible action.

Mr. Rubin was unable to attend the meeting but Commissioner Hayes-Raitt provided some information on the efforts to form a youth commission. Councilmember Feinstein indicated that due to the expense of creating and staffing a commission, and the need for the City to cut back the budget, this might not be feasible. He also stressed the importance of considering interesting models in other cities and how any proposed model would work with existing City advisory bodies and programs.

Commissioner Hayes-Raitt requested that this item be maintained on the agenda to allow Mr. Rubin the opportunity to present before the Commission.

- B. Presentation from the Domestic Violence Network.
This item was heard under 7C.

- 10. Adjournment
The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Approved:

Attest:

Darlene Evans
Chair

Silvana Quesada
Staff Assistant