

CITY AND COUNTY OF DENVER



Bill Vidal
Mayor

AGENCY FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS

DENVER WOMEN'S COMMISSION
Chaer Robert, Director

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DENVER WOMEN'S COMMISSION May 5, 2011 M I N U T E S

Present:

Ursla Null
Christy Morris
Caitlin Quander
Sunni Rogers
Brandi Shigley
Marcia Helfant
Catherine Chan
Eric Gonzales
Jim Smithwick
Jane Frances Echeozo
Chaer Robert

Absent:

Kathy Maloney- Conflict
Mayra Rosa – Son at hospital

Commission Positions

Dafna Michelson has resigned due to family health issues, which leaves us at 12 Commissioners. (Walt Armijo resigned last month due to travel schedule. Samar Tehrani resigned last month because she is relocating to Washington D.C.)

Ursla has been reviewing attendance records. In addition to those listed above, who have now resigned, Kathy Maloney has missed a number of meetings. She was helpful in getting the First Lady to come to our clothing drive and was at the Clothing Drive, but has missed far more than the two consecutive absences allowed. This may be because of her new position with the Manager of Safety. The Commission voted unanimously to recommend removal, with opportunity to resign prior to communication. Ursla will contact her.

Marcia suggested we may want to consider meeting a different time, due to the high number of Community events held on the First Thursday.

Need one more male. Should have 3 -4 open seats. Need one male; one who is a Mayoral appointee. Sunni will be stepping down due to a rigorous school schedule, but will remain on the commission through the summer. Chaer asked that all Commissioners stay on until new commissioners are appointed. This process is supposed to be complete by July 1 of each year, but has never happened on time.

Deadline for applicants: By May 27th all applications in. Chaer will email out notice of openings to her mailing list of about 1000. Ursla, Christy, Eric, Marcia and Jane Frances offered to review applications sent to us by the Mayor's Office. They will be reviewing **applications for open seats after the May 27th deadline**. Please send the application to your networks and have any applicants send their information to Suzan Moore in the Mayor's office, as well as cc Ursla so she can see them all. She is having trouble getting the applications quickly from that office.

Leadership

This is our slate for leadership for the coming year. Note that Ursla is not seeking reappointment as chair, but will remain on the commission for one more year before being termed out. Mayra did not want to be Chair.

New Officer- All approved unanimously. Terms will begin in July:

Chair: Caitlin Quander

Vice Chair: Christy Morris

Secretary/ Communications Manager: Eric Gonzales

Leg Cmte Co-chairs : Marcia Helfant and Jane Frances Echeozo. This Committee is in charge of the Lawmaker Awards and our participation in the Legislative Breakfast.

Events/Service/Marketing: Brandi Shigley. The Commission decided to merge Marketing and Events Committee.

Human Rights and Community Relations Advisory Board Representative – Jane Frances Echeozo

Jim Smithwick and wife Gretchen are expecting their first child in November. He offered to be on, but not chair, the events Committee. Christy offered to sub for Eric and do minutes if he can't attend (He is currently working in Pueblo.). Marcia offered to draft press releases (something she does in her job). Please consider what committees you'd like to serve on next year and send Chaer and Caitlin your committees of choice.

Marketing/Events Committee

Commission voted to merge these two committee.

Big event last month -- thanks to Brandi and Christy and the others who attended. We collected eleven carloads of clothes for the Gathering Place. First Lady Gabriela Conejos-Vidal spoke. See pictures on our Facebook page. For future events we may want to designate one person as spokesperson.

Brandi interested in redoing DWC Branding. Will put on the July Agenda.

Our Facebook page and our Twitter Account are now linked. Commissioners liked the voting reminder and information sent out on facebook. Eric has some ideas for increasing our social media and marketing presence.

Brandi has contacts for Press releases. Marcia has experience with and is willing to do press releases.

Legislative Committee

Bill we supported :

HB 1080 Address Confidentiality - Passed

SB 177 - Teen Pregnancy and Dropout Prevention --Passed

SB 8 - Aligning Medicaid and Child Health Plan --Passed

SB 126 -- Tuition Equity -- Died

SB 172 --Civil Union -- Died

Our Lawmaker Awards will be held Thursday November 10. Give to Chaer, Marcia or Jane Frances suggestions for honorees. One suggestion Councilwomen Carla Madison – posthumously.

The change in City administrations provides an opportunity to rethink our role. There are virtually no written rules on our legislative work , except restrictions regarding ballot issues (no City resources can be used) and candidate work (No candidate work). We can be more active. We can develop our influence more. Advisory Board will follow suit, looking during their summer retreat at opportunities to increase its role in supporting or opposing legislative recommendations.

HR/CR Advisory Board

Ursla and Chaer presented to the HR/CR Advisory Board. Board will have a training session on police use of force-.May 24. Jane Frances Echeozo will send out information on it. Planning to hold interagency reception with new Mayor.

NO JUNE MEETING! JUNE 23rd PICNIC

Brandi Shigley will host summer picnic with boyfriend James Brown at the “ Brownie Palace” 1775 Xenia St. 80220.. Brandi will send out an email on the details too-so we know if it's a barbecue or something else. Maybe a keg. 6:00 + June 23. Please arrive early if you have time to set up, as Brandi will be at her store until right before the picnic. Everyone should bring a dish to share. Potential Commissioners can be invited as guests. Former Commissioners to be invited--four or five years back.

REGULAR MEETING JULY 6th

6:00 p.m.

NOTE: As our new chair, Caitlin would like to use Roberts Rules of Order to expedite action.