

COSW Meeting – April 14, 2021 Minutes

Present:

Commissioners: María Domínguez, Chair; Orly Greenwood, Vice Chair; Erin Scott, Secretary; Olga Borjón, Treasurer; Meredith Walker, Marie Gilmore; Amy Levine; Linda Tangren; Nina Senn; Courtney Welch.
SSA Staff: Kim Fogel

Not present:

Commissioners: Ge'Nell Gary; RocQuel Johnson; Susan Gonzales; Jaclyn Coleman; Yasi Safinya-Davies; Martha Kreeger; Lucy Hernández.

1. Call to Order, Welcome, and Introductions

6:32 pm.

Introductions and welcomed Nina Senn.

2. Commissioner Announcements Commission-related announcements and reports on communications with supervisors/appointing body.

Fogel shared that there will be events re: Not One More Girl on BART and other transport. Tagged COSW on FB.

Domínguez shared that she and Senn accepted the Women's History Month proclamation at the BOS meeting. Senn will do a write up for COSW social media with a link to a video.

Scott shared about the City of Oakland's task force progress – recommendations have been shared with the city council. Also, FVLC, MISSEY, BAWAR, and YWFC will be producing a social media campaign that Scott will share with COSW.

Tangren shared about the Warriors women's empowerment event. She shared that it was impressive and well worth attending; messages about uplifting other women.

Levine shared that she is doing a workshop for UCOP on networking during COVID.

Domínguez suggested that we check in with our supervisors regularly and use this agenda item to share updates.

3. Approval of Minutes: Regular Meeting 03/10/2021

Domínguez has one edit – bottom of page 1 – “public content” should be “public comment.” Domínguez moves to approve, Gilmore seconds. Levine, Welch, and Scott abstain. Everyone else ayes. Motion passes.

4. Denouncing Anti-Asian Racism, Violence, and White Supremacy

Domínguez wanted to provide a space for sharing given the recent violence and incidents of anti-Asian racism in our communities.

Senn appreciated the sentiment shared by this body and feels that sharing our voice is powerful.

Scott shared about Stop AAPI Hate and encouraged us to follow what they are doing, possibly like them on COSW's FB page if we can.

Fogel shared where we can find our FB / social media policy.

Borjón mentioned that the BOS has issued a statement so we can share that in support as COSW.

Tangren shared that she still isn't clear about the limits of our role. Requests that we put this as a discussion topic on a meeting agenda. Scott requested that we talk about this internally first and narrow our questions.

Gilmore agrees that we should post what BOS already has said and we support it. Encouraged us to use our individual connections, especially people who have more power than we do, to make things happen and take a stand.

Domínguez shared the BOS statement from February.

Scott asked that we develop a long-term plan and our values about how we address issues, e.g., for example, looking at the impact of the pandemic from an intersectional anti-racism, anti-sexism lens.

Borjón shared that we should use our limited capacity wisely, to accomplish something tangible.

Senn stated that we may want a motion to make sure that we are aligned in our support.

Domínguez moved that COSW reaffirms the BOS's February 23, 2021 resolution condemning hate crimes against AAPI communities. Levine seconded. All ayes.

5. Retreat Planning

Greenwood shared a summary of past retreat topics. Discussed the possibility of addressing the junior commission and answering the question of how we determine the needs of the community. Also, what are our communications goals?

Gilmore said that the previous retreat plans were pre-COVID so moving forward we may want to: look at 1) the longer term institutional issues like the ones we looked at pre-COVID; and 2) the shorter term issues like the impact of the pandemic and racial justice issues.

Levine said that we need to focus on one or two things that we can accomplish in one year. She suggested that we meet with our supervisors by district and find out what they think is needed. She also suggested looking at what other commissions are doing around the state.

Scott reminded COSW that she gave a presentation about what other commissions are doing. She also suggested that we hold the balance between what our supervisors recommend with what we think is needed.

Borjón reminded us that we do not have a budget but we can ask for money for projects.

Greenwood asked for thoughts about our timeline and a facilitator. She will do a Doodle poll. Domínguez will share information gathered about a facilitator from our last retreat conversations.

Levine asked what we are talking about in terms of time. Greenwood said she will share all of the information with everyone.

Domínguez reminded everyone that there is an ad hoc retreat committee, created at the last meeting. Tangren, Scott, Levine, and Borjón joined the committee.

6. Mount Saint Mary's University 2021 Report on the Status of Women and Girls in California

Information only. Shared with the meeting agenda.

Domínguez highlighted their action items / next steps.

Senn expressed interest in finding out whether we can harvest any data for our county from MSM to use for the retreat and for presentations to the BOS. Senn will take that on and copy Kreeger so that this effort is aligned with the work of the Policy Committee.

Domínguez shared that the county is developing more COVID-related dashboards that might be helpful.

7. Treasurer's Report and Budget Update

Borjón shared that there is nothing to report.

Domínguez stated that she shared the link to the Google drive just before this meeting.

1 Minute Break

8. Committee Assignments and Reports

Bylaws – Gilmore shared that she has located the most recent copy of the bylaws and it needs to be shared with all COSW. Her copy is not redlined so will need someone else to dig up theirs. Meeting of the subcommittee will be scheduled by email, and the date will be after our May COSW meeting.

Presentation ad hoc – Domínguez needs to schedule the meeting. Thinks we should go before the SS Committee first and will work with Fogel to get on the agenda for May. Greenwood shared the ideas from the brainstorm spreadsheet, all of which centered on the impact of the pandemic. Shared information about the State COSW's meeting on April 20, 2021 to hear from commissions around the state. Greenwood and Walker will attend. Everyone encouraged to sign up so we get their emails, etc.

Communications – Domínguez reminded everyone that the social media piece is currently the only active part of this subcommittee. Requested that someone else take on the chair role.

Education – subcommittee has not met.

Policy – subcommittee has not met since last COSW meeting.

Senn will be added to Communications and Policy.

9.Open Public Comment: for items not on the agenda

No public comment.

10.Agenda Building

a.Election planning

b.Other items

Domínguez reminded us that elections should occur in June for the term starting July 1, 2021. Elections will be on the next agenda. HRC update will take place during the Commission updates. Fogel shared that HRC is having the first of two retreat sessions tomorrow and they are public meetings so anyone can attend; information on the website. Retreat planning will be on the next agenda.

Domínguez will forward an email from Pattillo of County Administrator's Office about the Women's Hall of Fame. Nominations are open (the link is fixed) and the event likely will occur in the Fall.

Next meeting is on May 12, 2021.

11.Adjournment