

Alameda County Commission on the Status of Women
Regular Meeting Minutes, May 12, 2021

Present

María Domínguez, Chair
Erin Scott, Secretary
Martha Kreeger
Meredith Walker
Marie Gilmore
Orly Amey, Vice Chair
Kim Fogel, SSA
Lucy Hernández
Susan Gonzales as a special guest
Nina Senn
Olga Borjón, Treasurer
Amy Levine
Yasi Safinya-Davies

Absent

RocQuel Johnson
Linda Tangren
Courtney Welch
Ge'Nell Gary

1. Call to Order, Welcome, and Introductions

Domínguez called the meeting to order at 6:31 pm.

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

Gonzales and Coleman have stepped off the commission. Gonzales shared some parting thoughts. Domínguez thanked Gonzales for her contributions. Hernández also thanked Gonzales for her contributions, particularly to the education committee.

Borjón reported that Supervisor Valle will join our June meeting. Please forward questions to Borjón.

Domínguez shared that Director Soublet informed her that May 24th is the date for the COSW presentation. Ad hoc committee members will hear more from Domínguez soon. Domínguez is suggesting that we see this as a “bridge” presentation because we are gearing up to shift some things re: COSW. Human Relations. Aging, and Veterans’ Affairs also are presenting.

Fogel shared that she will be out of the office for our June meeting. Someone else from SSA will set up the meeting that afternoon. Any general meeting or committee meeting agenda items and materials due by May 26th to Fogel.

Senn asked who is attending the May 24th meeting? Which supervisors? Fogel replied that it is Valle and Miley. What time? Anticipated to be 12:30 pm.

Kreeger shared that the next policy committee meeting is on June 3rd at 6 pm.

Gilmore asked when meetings will be live. No one had the answer.

3. Approval of Minutes Regular Meeting 04/14/2021.

Gilmore moved to approve the minutes and Levine seconded. All ayes. Motion passed.

4. California Commission on the Status of Women and Girls (CCSWG) Reporting back on the 04/20/2021 statewide meeting.

Levine shared that we might want to use the information presented as a jumping off point for what we want to do. Walker shared that it was inspiring to hear what other commissions are doing.

Domínguez agreed and referenced the attachments she shared: a newsletter from the Association of California Women's Commissions; state legislation state commission is sponsoring; and the PowerPoint slides from the presentation.

Domínguez asked Borjón to check to see that our association membership is current.

Domínguez asked if we want to vote in favor of one of the bills. Scott suggested that we not pull one bill out right now and instead discuss all the bills at the June policy committee meeting. Kreeger agreed that the bills should be discussed at the June meeting and bring recommendations to the June COSW meeting.

Walker asked whether we were reading all the bills just to get behind one bill. Kreeger and Scott explained the policy process.

Domínguez asked whether we could approve legislation at the general meetings rather than go through policy first. Scott said we should have standards about how we review issues and be strategic rather than reacting to things as they come up. Gilmore agreed that we should have good governance practices, be strategic, and then our decisions will have more clout. Kreeger shared that now is the perfect time of year to discuss legislation because bills have just come out of committee and are ready to move forward. She also shared that the statewide association is planning legislative advocacy days soon. In addition, she urged everyone to put issues on the COSW agenda and share information at least seven days in advance so we can read and be prepared to cast meaningful votes.

Safinya-Davies asked whether we should be identifying local organizations that support legislation and sharing that information. Scott said that she thinks we should put this on the agenda for the policy committee agenda in June. Amey suggested that we think of this as part of our calendar annually so that it matches the regular legislative cycle.

5. Complaints from Black Women Regarding Maternal Care at an Alameda County Hospital

Amey shared some of the anecdotes (about 50) she collected from the Instagram page Black Bay Area about Black women's experiences with maternal care (a "social listening approach"). Safinya-Davies shared that Alameda County hospitals are creating a protocol for Black maternal care – will ask if they can do a presentation for us about what they are doing and maybe we can

support their efforts - <http://www.alamedahealthsystem.org/family-birthing-center/black-centering/>. Scott shared that this is the kind of issue we should be uplifting as a commission. Domínguez said that she will ask internally at the public health department about other resources. Amey said that she will bring this issue back at the next meeting.

6. June Election Planning

Domínguez reminded everyone that we need an ad hoc nominating committee and that in addition to electing officers we will have one open at large position.

Levine asked whether Domínguez is the only one stepping down from her position and why generally we must do another election so soon after our last one (December 2020). Domínguez gave the history about why the last election was late (pandemic) and shared that she has termed out.

Amey would like to stay as Vice Chair. Scott will not be continuing as Secretary. Borjón is willing to stay on as Treasurer but will be terming out in September so likely better for someone else to take the position.

Walker volunteered to chair the committee and Levine will be a member. Walker clarified that we still need to vote on all positions.

Fogel monitors term expiration dates and lets the supervisor's office know. Then the office takes whatever action they deem appropriate.

Amey shared that she is happy to stay in her Vice Chair role for continuity and would be open to considering the role of chair if no one else is interested.

Domínguez asked whether anyone objected to a roll call election at the June meeting. None was received.

Kreeger asked whether we vote on the at large positions. Domínguez said yes and asked who is expiring this year. Safinya Davies shared that her term isn't ending this year and Johnson's is expiring in October 2021. Fogel will research what needs to be done and share with Walker.

Hernández asked whether she needed to write a letter to COSW requesting not to renew her term. Fogel confirmed that she did not because it was on the BOS agenda and was accepted.

7. Treasurer's Report and Budget Update

Borjón has nothing to report.

8. Committee Assignments and Reports

Gilmore reported that she had planned to ask members of the Bylaws Committee for a meeting date but everyone on the committee except for Scott is leaving in 2021. Gilmore will send an email with possible dates in the next month or so; otherwise will punt until after positions are settled.

Domínguez will forward her presentation outline – Ad Hoc Presentation Committee.

Retreat Planning Committee – Amey shared that they have not had a meeting. Planning to get a Doodle poll out for June meeting dates. Also, will touch base with Johnson about the HR Commission retreat to get ideas.

Communications Committee - Dominguez shared that Senn has taken on social media updates.

Education Committee – Kreeger shared that they did not meet in May.

Policy Committee – met in May but no quorum. Kreeger shared that a new SSA data person had been assigned to the committee and is hoping to obtain more data through her. Next meeting is on June 3rd at 6 pm.

Kreeger requested that she be taken off the Education Committee.

Gilmore shared that a sub-committee does not need a quorum because the binding vote happens at the full COSW meeting. Domínguez will send an email to Wu to confirm.

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

No public comment.

10.Agenda Building

a. Election

b. Supervisor Richard Valle guest at June 9 meeting. Scott proposed a question about the county budget – what will benefit women and girls and where does he have areas of concern. Gilmore would like to know how the upcoming state and federal will be used in the county's budget, if at all, and if not, when do they do their budget revisions.

c. Black maternal health care follow up

d. Pride month

e. Retreat planning stand-alone agenda item to give more time for discussion.

11.Adjournment at 8:14 pm.