

COMMITTEE ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

Kalana O Maui, 9th Floor, Conference Room

Tuesday, February 15, 2011

Minutes

I. Call to order and establishment of quorum

Chair Potopowitz called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m.

Present: Chair Barbara Potopowitz, Vice-Chair Margaret Bruck, Debra Cabebe, Dennyse Grace, Maria Ornellas,

Excused: Suzanne Hobbs

Staff: Mercedes Neri (Mayor's Executive Assistant)
Gary Murai (Deputy Corporation Counsel)
Colleen Chang (Administrative Assistant)

II. Public Testimony

There was no public testimony received.

Ms. Neri invited a guest to the meeting, Ms. Colleen Wallace of Mental Health Association who introduced herself to the committee.

III. Review and Discuss Correspondence Received

There was no correspondence received.

Chair Potopowitz received a call and email from Audrey Inaba proposing that the Committee of the Status of Women consider consultation/collaboration for a Women's Health Week event – Sunday, May 8 through Saturday, May 14, 2011.

Chair Potopowitz suggested committee members review email to see if they would be interested in participating. After some discussion, Commissioner Ornellas made a motion to request for \$500 for Women's Health Week in May 2011. Commissioner Cabebe seconded the motion. Committee members unanimously voted to pass the motion.

Commissioner Grace made a motion to continue dialog on this subject. Vice-Chair Bruck seconded the motion. Committee members unanimously voted to pass the motion.

Chair Potopowitz will contact Audrey Inaba to inform her that the committee agreed to participate in the Women's Health Week in May 2011.

Vice-Chair Bruck shared with the Committee that Maui Community College has implemented a wellness program that is also opened to the public and charges a membership fee.

IV. Report from State Commission on the Status of Women Representative Anna Mayeda

Ms. Mayeda had nothing new to add since the last State Commission's meeting in December 2010 but reiterated if the committee needed any assistance from the State Commission to let her know before the next State meeting in March.

Ms. Mayeda also mentioned that Ms. Ferguson-Quick is planning Oahu's History Month on March 23, 2011 to be held at Washington Place.

Ms. Mayeda also mentioned that Ms. Ferguson-Quick would be happy to follow bills that pertained to legislation on Status of Women at the State Legislature and report back to the committee. Chair Potopowitz mentioned she would like these type of legislation to be sent to the committee.

Ms. Mayeda praised the Maui Group for their dedicated involvement. She noticed that the Oahu commissioners tend to follow their own agendas.

Commissioner Cabebe inquired where the State Commission receives their funding from. Ms. Mayeda advised the committee that funding comes from the State Budget. Mr. Murai informed the committee that the total State CSW funding is \$250,000 and \$50,000 of the \$250,000 is to be shared by all islands. (Although future funding might be cut.)

Commissioner Grace asked if the State Commission could allocate funds to the neighbor islands instead of asking for funds on an as needed basis. Ms. Mayeda will check with Ms. Ferguson-Quick.

Ms. Mayeda also reminded the committee that we need to submit a line item request for the \$1000.

Commissioner Ornellas stated that the committee can do better planning for functions if funds were readily available or given a budget of our own. Commissioner Ornellas also requested funds for 2011 Women's Leadership Conference so we would be able to send more than one student to the Conference. Ms. Mayeda will discuss this with Ms. Ferguson-Quick. Commissioner Cabebe made a motion to request funding from the State Commission. Vice-Chair Bruck seconded the motion. Committee unanimously voted to pass the motion.

V. Report from Women's History Month 2011 Subcommittee

Commissioner Grace distributed a draft of 10 questions pertaining to women that contributed a great deal to the advancement of women with supporting information. She kept it to 10 questions so that it could be discussed in the classrooms in 30-45 minutes and tried to keep the questions that touched all ethnic groups. She advised the Commissioners to review and make comments.

Vice-Chair Bruck expressed her mixed feeling regarding question #6, questioned if factual and she felt was more opinionated. Guest Ms. Wallace recommended that Question #6 just needs to be modified.

Vice-Chair Bruck had concerns on question #4 and #7, equal rights amendment. Recommended that the two be combined and defined better.

Mr. Murai, although not a voting member of the committee, recommended elaborating more on Patsy Mink since she was from Maui. Chair Potopowitz agreed to make Patsy Mink a separate item and with more emphasis on her accomplishments.

Chair Potopowitz's goal is to present package to schools and teachers.

Commissioner Grace suggested we do a launch at our next meeting either a press release or a viewpoint.

Commissioner Ornellas checked with Rod Antone, the County's Public Information Officer, regarding any publications. She was informed that all publications must be reviewed by them and they would be able to publish it for the committee.

Commissioner Grace suggested since March is right around the corner, to wait until March 2012. She felt that the committee can do a better job if we did it right and not rush into it.

Chair Potopowitz advised the committee to go ahead with Viewpoint, which she would write, and the Bookmark and find five (5) women who would be willing to be interviewed on a radio station.

Vice-Chair Bruck felt that bookmarks are outdated. Today's children do not read actual books; they are more into electronic sources. Commissioner Grace admitted that she is old fashioned and likes to hold and touch an actual book.

Chair Potopowitz asked for a motion to be made to go ahead with the Press Release or Viewpoint and have Mr. Antone review; contact Akaku, Filipino radio station and any other radio stations that would be willing to participate; locate Patsy Mink's video, and find five (5) women to interview. Motion made by Commissioner Grace and seconded by Commissioner Ornellas. Committee members unanimously voted to pass the motion.

VI. Discussion Items:

A. Governor's International Women's Leadership Conference 2011

Commissioner Cabebe distributed a handout to the committee listing the criteria of choosing the right candidate for the committee's review and to be discussed at our next meeting.

Commissioner Grace requested that this would be extended to the college levels also.

Commissioner Cabebe will develop a plan of how we can solicit funding for sponsorship and discuss it at the next meeting.

B. Continue discussions of the following:

Potential Projects and Funding

There was no discussion under this item

Volunteer Recruitment for Projects

There was no discussion under this item.

Inviting Representatives of Women's Groups to Future CSW Meetings

There was no discussion under this item.

Creation of CSW Banner

The banner was displayed for the committee to look at.

Appointment to Boards and Commissions Project

Chair Potopowitz is reviewing gender equity for all boards and commissions.

VII. Determine Next Meeting Date and Agenda

The next meeting date is March 15, 2011.

VIII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1:36 p.m.