I. Call to order and establishment of quorum

Chair Potopowitz called the meeting to order at 12:10 p.m.

Present: Chair Barbara Potopowitz, Debra Cabebe, Suzanne Hobbs, Susan “Netra” Halperin, and Carol Reimann.

Excused: Dennyse Grace, Maria Ornellas

Ex-Officio Excused: Leslie Wilkins

Staff: Mercedes Neri, Mayor’s Executive Assistant
      Gary Murai, Deputy Corporation Counsel
      Colleen Chang, Administrative Assistant

II. Public Testimony

Commissioner Halperin invited Ms. Nicole Blanchi to the meeting to submit testimony on a newly formed “occupied movement”. Ms. Blanchi asked for the support of the Committee to help support and spread the word on the new organization’s efforts. The newly formed organization is all about sustainability and how it affects women.

III. New Business

There was no discussion under this agenda item.

IV. Approve Minutes from the October 18, 2011 Meeting

Commissioner Cabebe made the motion to approve the minutes of October 18, 2011 meeting and Commissioner Hobbs seconded the motion. The minutes were approved by the Committee.
V. Review and Discuss Correspondence Received

There was no discussion under this item.

VI. Report from State Commission on the Status of Women Representative Leslie Wilkins

Commissioner Leslie Wilkins was unable to attend due to another commitment.

Chair Potopowitz informed the Committee that she spoke to Commissioner Leslie Wilkins and conveyed her regrets for not attending the meeting.

Out of the twelve (12) applicants for the State Executive Director’s position, Sharon Ferguson-Quick was in the top four but unfortunately was not reappointed. We will be informed of the new Director shortly.

Commissioner Wilkins reassured Chair Potopowitz that she will honor all prior funding commitments made by Ms. Ferguson-Quick.

VII. Discussion Items:

* Business & Professional Women’s Week dinner report:

Chair Potopowitz and Commissioner Halperin attended the BPW dinner meeting. The group is looking for new members. Anyone interested is welcomed to join; membership fees are $15.

Mercedes Neri also attended on behalf of Mayor Alan Arakawa and presented a proclamation.

The National BPW has completed their research on various women’s issues in Hawaii and is in the process of compiling the information. Chair Potopowitz will keep the Committee updated on the report.

* Dinner with Senator Pia Cayetano of the Philippines:
Chair Potopowitz was invited by the Mayor’s office to meet with Senator Cayetano to discuss women’s issues. Senator Cayetano chairs a Women and Families Committee in the Philippines. Chair Potopowitz found it very interesting to hear of the obstacles that women and families go through in the Philippines. Such obstacles include getting books, over-population, etc.

Senator Cayetano is currently proposing legislation to limit the number of children in a family, due to the population being out of control in the Philippines.

* Cost of Government Committee Recommendations:

Chair Potopowitz distributed a handout of the CGC’s recommendations for the CSW Committee.

Recommendations were as follows:
1. CSW Committee’s role should be the one advising the County and the State Commission on the Status of Women on policies as it relates to the needs and aspirations of women in Maui.
2. Duties of the CSW Committee should include publishing an annual report on the Status of Women in Maui County.

The CGC recommended to leave the number of members at seven (7).

Chair Potopowitz requested that the Commissioners review the CGC’s recommendations. She also would like to see if an attendance policy could be added to the rules of the committee and will look into the procedure on how to implement such a rule.

Mr. Murai informed the Committee that the process for any changes to the “rules” is very lengthy and comprehensive. He suggested that the Committee review all the rules at one time instead of just a particular rule due to the detailed process.

* Women’s Leadership Conference for Maui:

There was no discussion on this item; Commissioner Grace was not at this meeting.
* Women’s History Month

Women’s History month is held in March. Chair Potopowitz proposed that we ask all 55 women that we honored in our Women’s Back Into History Booklet for their permission to be part of a “Speaker’s Bureau” and use them as a resource for all the schools and organizations. She will prepare a draft and present it to the Committee at our next meeting.

* Report from Survey Questions & Survey Distribution Sub-Committees:

Commissioner Grace was unable to attend this meeting, therefore because time is of the essence, Chair Potopowitz will work with Commissioners Halperin and Grace to develop questions and share them with the committee. She also asked all the members if they had any suggestions to submit them to the sub-committee as soon as possible.

The Commissioners agreed that five (5) to ten (10) questions was sufficient and the questions should pertain to such topics as child care, finances, and how the County of Maui can help them, etc.

VIII. Determine Next Meeting Date and Agenda

The next meeting date will be Tuesday, January 17, 2012.
There is no meeting in December 2011.

IX. Adjournment

Commissioner Cabebe made the motion to adjourn the meeting and Commissioner Hobbs seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 1:18 p.m.