

**Mayor's Commission on the Status of Women
Meeting Minutes (DRAFT)
Wednesday, December 13, 2023
Plaza de Armas, Culture Commons Gallery - 5:30 p.m.**

Attendees: City Staff: Jenny Garcia, City Manager's Office; Gabrielle Herrera, Mayor's Office; Shreya Shah, City Attorney's Office

Commissioners:

Mayoral Mara Posada – PRESENT (virtual)	D6 Larissa Martinez
D1 Monica Garza - PRESENT	D7 Dr. Diana Sanchez Lira
D2 Jae Ricks, Treasurer	D8 Frankie Gonzales-Wolfe
D3 Vanessa Martinez, Vice Chair - PRESENT	D9 Dr. Jacqueline Pugh - PRESENT
D4 Fernanda Cardenas - PRESENT	D10 Anamaria Suescun-Fast - PRESENT
D5 Sara Gerrish - PRESENT	

Meeting called to order by Commissioner Martinez at 5:30 pm

Approval of Minutes

1. Approval of the minutes from the Mayor's Commission on the Status of Women Meeting on November 8, 2023.

Commissioner Cardenas motioned to approve the minutes from the November 8th meeting. Second by Commissioner Pugh. **Motion carried 7-0.**

Public Comment

2. Public Comment: [Interested speakers will have 3 minutes to address the Mayor's Commission on the Status of Women on agenda related matters]

There were no individuals signed up to speak.

Briefing and Possible Action on the following items

3. Chairwoman's Report: briefing from Commissioner Martinez, acting Chair of the Mayor's Commission on the Status of Women

Commissioner Pugh has requested a listing of all Commissioner cell phone numbers. Assistant City Attorney Shreya Shah reminded the group to limit discussion/text to subcommittee work to avoid a walking quorum.

Commissioner Cardenas introduced the idea of MCSW business cards to include name and contact information. Jenny will explore the idea of ordering business/information cards for distribution at events, to include an official City contact to distribute to the public.

Commissioner Martinez reminded the group that a future action item would be distributing scholarship funds, raised through previous International Women's Day luncheons. The current balance is about \$70,000 for scholarship funds.

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Commissioner Martinez also reminded the group that a subcommittee would need to be formed to review and edit the outdated by-laws. Assistant City Attorney Shreya Shah recommended distribution of scholarship funds be included in the revised by-law recommendations. By-law recommendations would need to be taken to the Governance Council Committee before going to a Council A Session for full Council approval.

Commissioner Martinez brought up the International Women's Day Summit and possible locations. The group discussed Culture Commons Gallery as a possible location. Jenny will find out if the space is available.

Additional meeting logistics were discussed – i.e. content, invitations, speakers, general event planning. Commissioner Martinez will send the draft program/event outline to the Commission for discussion/finalization at the January meeting.

4. Treasurer's Report: briefing on the status of the MCSW Budget

Jenny Garcia shared that the FY24 Budget for the MCSW is \$15,000. No expenses have been incurred this Fiscal Year.

5. Subcommittee Updates – briefing and possible action on proposed activities and expenditures

Subcommittees provided updates on their ideas to contribute to the International Women's Day event on Friday, March 8, 2024.

a. Economic/Workforce Development

- i. Commissioner Gerrish and Commissioner Pugh reported on the progress of meetings for their Economic Panel on Childcare as a Barrier to Women's Participation in the Workforce session. The subcommittee will continue discussions with community leaders, including United Way of San Antonio and Bexar County, Early Matters, PreK 4 SA and Texas A&M University. Discussions have included the cost and access to quality childcare, wage equality for childcare providers, and policy change/advocacy. The committee will now begin refining the session and update the Commission at the next meeting.

b. Women's Health

- i. Commissioner Garza, Commissioner Fernandez, and Commissioner Suescan-Fast provided an update for the subcommittee. The group has brainstormed different ideas and would like to focus on elder care and its impact to women, to include aging healthfully.

c. Domestic and Intimate Partner Violence

- i. Commissioner Martinez reported on subcommittee updates. The group will focus on prevention and early education/intervention around healthy relationships and intimate partner violence. The group has, or will, meet with the Metro Health Department and the City's Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility Office.

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6. Election of Officers – consideration of nominations and election of officers

Nominations were open for Chair, Vice-Chair, Treasurer, and Secretary. Commissioner Martinez and Commissioner Posada were both nominated for Chairwoman. Commissioner Gerrish was nominated for Vice-Chairwoman. Commissioner Pugh was nominated for Secretary.

Commissioner Martinez and Commissioner Posada each presented their platform for the Chairwoman Position.

The Commission voted on the slate of nominations.

The newly elected officers are:

- **Chairwoman Vanessa Martinez (elected 6-1)**
- **Vice Chairwoman Sara Gerrish (elected 7-0)**
- **Secretary Jacqueline Pugh (elected 7-0)**

7. Announcements and Future Items

The Economic/Workforce Development Subcommittee invited Mark Larson, Executive Director of Early Matters San Antonio, to provide a presentation on childcare immediately following the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.