**Solano Commission for Women and Girls**

**Minutes**

**Virtual Meeting**

**March 18, 2021**

**6:00 – 8:00 p.m.**

**CALL TO ORDER**

*Chair Laura Petty called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m*.

**ROLL CALL**

**Members Present**

Ana Petero Solano County, District 2

Sabine Goerke-Shrode Solano County, District

Jennifer Hamilton Solano County, District 4

Laura Petty Solano County, District 5

Gayle Vaughan City of Benicia

Pat Nicodemus City of Dixon

Dr. Rechelle Nettles City of Fairfield

Kay Kelley City of Rio Vista

Edith Thomas City of Vacaville

Elease Cheek City of Vacaville

Andrea Lemos Solano County Office of Education

Akon Walker Member at Large

**Members Absent**

Tiffani Thomas City of Suisun

Doriss Panduro Member at Large

Oliva Ruiz Solano County, District 1

Sakina Ali Youth Member at Large

**Visitors**

Mary Henderson

Rozalind Sinnamon-Johnson

Dr. Francis McCullough

Danette Mitchell

Juliana Briggs (newest Commissioner)

**COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC/BOARD MEMBERS**

Chair Petty called for comments but there were none.

1. Additions/Deletions to the Agenda

Commissioner Petero moved and Commissioner Ali seconded that the agenda be approved as written. Vote was unanimous.

1. Approval of the Feb. 18, 2021 SCWG Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Goerke-Shrode moved and Commissioner Hamilton seconded that the February minutes be approved as written. Vote was unanimous.

**REGULAR CALENDAR**

1. *Membership Change*

Membership Committee Chair Commissioner Kay Kelley explained the process used to select a new youth member. After interviews with several candidates, the team decided to nominate Juliana Biggs as youth commissioner to finish Jala Carter’s term which ends in October, 2021. Ms. Biggs is 21 and a recent graduate from George Washington University.

Commissioner Kelley moved and Commissioner Edith Thomas seconded the proposal that we accept Juliana Biggs as youth commissioner to take the chair and complete the term of Jala Carter. Unanimous approval.

The newly appointed Commissioner Biggs was asked to join us on zoom where she told us a little about herself.

Chair Petty thanked Dr. Francis McCullough and Commissioners Kelley, Edith Thomas, Hamilton, and Cheek for interviewing the candidates. It was a lot of work, and their time and effort were appreciated.

*2. Update/Feedback on Women in Leadership Series*

Commissioners gave their personal feedback and impressions on the Women and Leadership events: Engaging panelists, good questions, engaging to learn about inspiring, uplifting women, good presentations that were technically well-done. Entertaining, informative and educational. A very positive, inspirational event. We should repeat this next year. Demographics mostly 40-80, while we wanted to have more 15-24 year-olds.

*3. Headshot & Bio Project for Website*

Chair Petty explained that we gathered 50-60 headshots and bios from elected women leaders to use in the video used in our Women in Leadership presentations. The organizing committee of that series of events thought it would be appropriate to add these headshots and shortened bios somewhere on our website. It was suggested that we include other women leaders as well.

Commissioner Vaughan offered to edit bio’s and help organize the photos

Commissioner Hamilton will work on how to put it on the website and develop a form for nomination of additional women leaders to be included in that part of the website.

Commissioners Vaughan and Hamilton will meet and discuss the process before the next Commission meeting.

Commissioner Goerke-Shrode needs a list of the names of the women to receive certificates and needs a wrap up meeting of the planners of the Women and Leadership events. A decision needs to be made if certificates will be sent to all 67 women who were invited to participate in the events, or just those that were interviewed. Commissioner Hamilton offered to make some certificates for those nominated by Supervisors. Commissioners Goerke-Shrode and Hamilton will work together on getting them printed.

Chair Perry reported that she was asked to come to BOS meeting to accept the proclamation declaring March Women’s History Month and shared the lovely proclamation which is now up on our website.

*4. Working Group Break Out Rooms*

Chair Petty reviewed the new working groups: Maternity/Infant health, Violence against Women and Girls, and PHFI (Poverty, Housing, and Food Insecurity).

Non-board members are encouraged to participate in these committees as well. Mary Henderson, a public health nurse involved with Solano Heals is an active participant in Maternal and Infant Health group, and Rozalind Sinnamon-Johnson is involved with the Violence against Women and Girls group.

Chair Petty reminded us that these groups should be meeting at least monthly between our Commission Meetings so that we can use this time just to touch base and finalize ideas before presenting progress to the full Commission.

*5. Working Groups Whole Commission Summary Discussion (Reporting out)*

*PHFI*: Commissioner Edith Thomas reported out that the groups discussed possible zooms or in person events about affordable housing and houselessness in September, and the food insecurity in November. The focus would be on women and girls who are underserved and translators and signers ( sign language) would be present to assist. There is an identified gap in available low income housing. Commissioner Nicodemus noted that there was: only one residential treatment house in Solano County, and that people coming out of prison, have problem finding houses. It was suggested that Jennifer Artz would be a good resource.

*Maternity and Infant Heath*: Commissioner Walker reported out: Their meeting is scheduled for Monday at noon. Planning of a virtual “Birth Justice” event on May 8th for about half a day bringing together panels of pregnant women, new mothers, breakout groups to discuss their experiences, and experts that provide services. There was discussion on how best to engage women most in need of services, who might not have access to wi-fi or zoom. It’s important to reach those who are living in poverty and that’s why the group is partnering with Solano Heals. Commission members will need to assist in various ways and plan to attend the event. The group is also researching a bill to push legislation forward that will assist these women with services.

*Violence against Women and Girls*: Commissioner Kay Kelley reported that this group has had a slow start. We have talked about what we should to do for human trafficking but have only just started thinking about ideas for domestic violence. We are going to look at what resources are available and where we can find gaps, and bring it back to our next meeting. We are hoping to develop a list or laminated card with resources that we could make available to women who need help. We know that there are little to no shelters for women who have been trafficked and about 4 beds countywide for women who are suffering from domestic violence. Once we find those resources we will post them on our website and do a media blitz about those resources. Chair Petty suggested the group reach out to the DA’s office. Commissioner Kelley will work with the Family Justice Center and Commissioner Vaughan will contact Benicia Family Resource Center and the Benicia Soroptimists for any resources they might have. Commissioner Vaughan will connect with Ms. Sinnamon-Johnson to get the resource list she has developed. Commissioner Kelley suggested we get the deputy district attorney to come speak to the whole group about trafficking and domestic violence.

Commissioner Thomas asked that all groups share the resources they find with the other groups. Chair Petty confirmed that’s what we should be doing.

*6. Website Update*

We have hired an intern for up to $500 at $20 per hour between now and fall to update the website. Talking about separate page for each of three working groups. She may be asked to join us at April meeting.

*7. Committee Reports*

*-Exec. Comm*.: No meeting this month, but Commissioner Ali did provide a financial report showing $1900 in the bank. We are allocating about $500 for the website. We will need to probably allocate more. Commissioner Kelley had a question about sending out donations written to Music for Our Children. Chair Petty said to send any donation check to her at the law office for review, and then it will go to Commissioner Ali for recording, and finally on to Music for Our Children for deposit. That way we have a clear record of our funds.

-*Bylaw Updates*: Commissioner Kelley reported that we have a clean copy, red out copy, and strike out copy. The next step is for it to go to the BOS who wants two copies so they can compare what we have crossed out and what we have put in.

*-Communications:* Chair Petty reported that the committee is not meeting for now, but individuals are still working on tasks: Kourtney is working on the website, Commissioner Edith Thomas is doing Facebook, Commissioner Ali doing Instagram, and Commissioner Vaughan has been working on press releases to print media and radio.

*8. Agenda Items for April 15, 2021 Meeting*

No additional items for the April Agenda were proposed.

**ADJOURNED**:

Commissioner Petero moved and Commissioner Kelley seconded that we adjourn at 7:35. The vote was unanimous.