



City and County of San Francisco

Commission on the Status of Women

Mayor London N. Breed

COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, April 24, 2024

5:00 pm

San Francisco City Hall, Room 408

Roster:

President Dr. Shokooh Miry
Vice President Sophia Andary
Commissioner Sharon Chung
Commissioner Diane Jones Lowrey

Commissioner Dr. Anne Moses (excused)
Commissioner Dr. Raveena Rihal (excused)
Commissioner Ani Rivera

Note: The Commission will hear public comment on each item on the agenda before or during consideration of that item.

I. CALL TO ORDER

DISCUSSION

Meeting called to order at 5:04pm. Opening remarks by President Shokooh Miry. Dr. Macaluso performed roll call, confirmed 5 of 7 Commissioners present (quorum). Dr. Macaluso read the land acknowledgement.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

DISCUSSION and ACTION

The Commission reviewed the minutes from the regular meeting held on March 27, 2024, and made necessary edits to the meeting location and a Commissioner's title. Commissioner Rivera proposed and motioned these changes, which were seconded by Commissioner Andary.

No public comment.

(Roll Call Vote) Chung/Jones Lowrey – 5 ayes, 0 nays – Unanimous

III. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

DISCUSSION

Director Ellis shared highlights from the 2024 SHIFT Happens Summit. The Summit saw nearly 900 registrations, with around 700 attendees gathering at Moscone Center in San Francisco for an action-oriented Summit focused on fostering gender equity and inclusive policy changes. Program highlights included sessions like "OG Warriors" and "Roe-vember 2.0," featuring seasoned activists discussing effective political engagement. Keynotes covered urgent topics like gender equity, marriage equality and democracy preservation. Influential speakers such as California's First Partner Jennifer Siebel Newsom, Attorney General Rob Bonta, and Deputy Lord Mayor Colette Finn of Cork City, Ireland, emphasized allyship and women's leadership. Breakout sessions provided tools for organizing and advocacy, while a community lounge facilitated networking and support for women-owned businesses. The Summit also featured a "Suited up for Democracy" fashion show. Overall, it served as a robust platform for dialogue, learning and action to advance gender equity. Director Ellis expressed deep appreciation to co-host IGNITE National and Department's staff for their dedication, giving special recognition to Denise Heitzenroder, the point person for the Summit's success. Director Ellis also recognized Denim Day.

Commissioner Comment

Commissioner Andary expressed gratitude to the entire staff and Director Ellis for their efforts in organizing the Summit, highlighting the positive feedback received about the workshops and breakout sessions. Director Ellis commended Commissioner Andary's session on organizing as one of the best, with active participation and valuable insights gained. Commissioner Rivera regretted missing the event but praised its ambiance and energy, expressing excitement for future editions. Director Ellis announced that the entire event was recorded and thanked Commissioner Jones Lowrey and Commissioner Chung for participating in the fashion show, which reframed the word "model" as "role model." Commissioner Jones Lowrey praised the event, wishing it could have been longer for deeper engagement. Commissioner Chung noted the effective marketing attracted diverse interest. President Shokooh Miry commended the Summit as super powerful and well executed.

No public comment.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

ACTION

Resolution to recognize the Women's Leadership Committee of the San Francisco Police Officers Association was brought to the Commission. Director Ellis explained this resolution is a follow-up to last month's acknowledgment of four police officers who spoke at the public safety hearing, with a resolution passed for each officer. This resolution aims to honor the entire women's leadership committee for their collective support, leadership and dedication, particularly in advocating for improved treatment of women officers in the City.

No Commissioner comment.

Public comment is closed for the consent agenda.

(Roll Call Vote) Rivera/Andary – 5 ayes, 0 nays – Unanimous

V. NEW BUSINESS

N/A

VI. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT DISCUSSION

Emberly Cross (CROC) expressed gratitude to Director Ellis, staff and the Commission for hosting the Summit and ensuring its accessibility. Ms. Cross highlighted CROC's longstanding collaboration with domestic violence service providers in San Francisco since the 1980s, citing partnerships with Women Inc. for intake services and connecting survivors with Bay Area Legal Aid. Ms. Cross shared a success story involving a domestic violence survivor with special needs, where collaboration with Bay Legal led to positive legal outcomes. Cross stressed the necessity of a centralized legal intake process for survivors and shared a report with the Department, expressing eagerness to collaborate further.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

President Shokooh Miry invited any additional comments from the Commission before adjournment. Commissioner Rivera shared a sentiment of acknowledging community injustices, particularly regarding women in politics and survivors of violence, expressing the pain of witnessing such injustices and advocating for leaders, including Commissioners, to actively confront and denounce all forms of violence. Commissioner Rivera emphasized the need for creating discussion models, highlighting the collective responsibility to uphold values and enforce zero tolerance policies. The Commissioner concluded with a statement of solidarity with survivors and a commitment to taking action.

Meeting adjourned at 5:34pm.