

Minutes  
Commission For Women  
February 8, 1992

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Stacey B. MacDonald called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

ROLL CALL

Commissioners present were: Bysshe, Breyman, Harris-Murray, Scoville, De La Selva, McGrath, Thomas, Harrion, MacDonald, McVerry, Rogalsky, Lawrason, and Maurer. Spencer and Jones were absent.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chris Newman, Ventura, addressed the Commission and offered her assistance to the Commission noting her particular interest is in health care.

CONSENT CALENDAR

- A. **SUBSIDIARY LEDGER:** Chair MacDonald removed the Subsidiary Ledger from the Consent Calendar as it was unavailable to the Commission for review and action.
- B. **MINUTES January 11, 1992:** It was the consensus of the Commission to adopt the minutes as revised, deleting the reference to an incomplete paragraph noting adoption of the approval for funds for the Women's History Project which had been approved in December and to include the Consent Calendar as was presented on the January Agenda. There being no objection, it was so ordered.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

- A. **CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT:** Chair MacDonald provided information to the Commission regarding the Creative Options event and reviewed the Commission's participation. It was agreed that the Commission would staff a table promoting the Women's History Project and the Women's Political Appointment's Coalition. Commissioner Rogalsky agreed to staff the table at the appropriate times.

Chair MacDonald reported on the status of the Commission staff vacancy and noted that Volunteer Gwen Hutchinson had taken full-time employment and was unable to continue staffing the Commission office. She indicated that Volunteer Celeste Weingard had been assisting in the office and had mailed out the Agendas and Minutes during her vacation but would be unable to provide other than minimal assistance. She also provided an update on the recruitment to fill the position, noting that the process was slow.

Chair MacDonald informed the Commission of the PSSA'S decision to propose the elimination of the Commission For Women as an option to the Board of Supervisors to achieve required budget savings requested by the Board. After much discussion, it was moved by Commissioner Lawarason, seconded by Commissioner Breyman to direct District Appointees to meet with their Supervisors and discuss options regarding the future of the Commission For Women with their Executive Board Member then reporting back at an Executive Board Meeting to develop a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors. There being no objection, it was so ordered.

Clemency for Women in Prison for Killing Abusing Spouses: Chair MacDonald reviewed correspondence received from the Coalition Against Household Violence and a request for clemency for women convicted of killing abusing spouses. After a brief review of the request from Brenda Aris (as submitted by the Coalition Against Household Violence) it was moved by Commissioner McGrath, seconded by Commissioner MacDonald to direct correspondence to the Governor with copies to appropriate legislators and the Board of Supervisors in support of clemency for women convicted of killing abusing spouses. There being no objection, it was so ordered. Commissioner McGrath volunteered to direct correspondence to the Governor, local legislators and the Board of Supervisors.

- B. **WOMEN'S APPOINTMENTS COALITION:** Committee Chair Scoville reported on the progress of the Committee in designing and arranging for a workshop in the West-end of the County to promote appointments of women to local boards, committees, and commissions with the hope that it would be co-sponsored by the League of Women Voters. Commissioner Lawarason expressed concern that the workshop was not being held in a more central location. Chair Scoville explained that a similar workshop had previously been held in the Thousand Oaks area. Commissioner MacDonald indicated that Carol Whiteside, Assistant Secretary of Intergovernmental Relations to Governor Wilson had been contacted to be the keynote speaker.
  - C. **FINANCE COMMITTEE:** Commissioner Thomas provided an update on the status of the progress of establishing a separate account from the County to allow for greater flexibility in funding the Commission's activities.
  - J. **CHILD CARE:** Chair MacDonald noted that this matter would be taken out of order. Kathy Long, Aide to Supervisor Erickson-Kildee and Chair of the Camarillo Child Care Council, addressed the Commission, distributed materials from the Child Care Network and reported on activities.
  - D. **HEALTH CARE COMMITTEE:** Commissioner McVerry reported on the progress of the Health Care Committee and noted that much of the last meeting had been devoted to a presentation on the AIDS Care Walk scheduled for Sunday, February 9, 1992.
  - E. **PROGRAM COMMITTEE:** Women's History Project - Commissioner Breyman reported on the progress of the event planned for March 14, 1992. She distributed packets to each of the Commissioner's present and requested their assistance in promoting and selling tickets to the event. She indicated that very few nominations had been received and encouraged Commissioner's to solicit nominations from within their district. She explained that Commissioner's from each district had been requested to follow-up with the school districts within their respective areas.
- FAMILY LAW FORUM:** Commissioner De La Selva reported that she had been in contact with various individuals interested in planning an event in the West-end of the County similar to the event being planned by former Commissioner Witting in the Thousand Oaks Area. She was advised to contact Susan Witting to assist in the planning of the event with persons interested in participating in and arranging the Forum for the West-end of the County.
- F. **PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE:** Commissioner MacDonald reported on her efforts to promote the Commission for Women within the County.

Page 3.

- G. **WOMEN'S SHELTERS REPORTS:** Commissioner McGrath reported that the Shelter's are experiencing increased activity and noted that she is collecting "hotel sized" items such as, shampoo, body-lotion, etc. to distribute to the shelters and requested that Commissioner's bring any items they may have to the next meeting.
- H. **LEGISLATIVE REPORT:** Commissioner McGrath reported on legislation regarding domestic violence issues and provided updates on the Bills still before the Legislature, dealing with matters such as spousal rape, parental kidnapping and battered women's syndrome. She explained that no input was being requested from the Commission at this time due to the on-going changes in the legislation.
- Commissioner McGrath proposed that the Commission move to direct correspondence to various organizations and agencies regarding the possibility of mandatory birth control for drug abusing women with multiple births of drug addicted children. After much discussion on the controversy of the issue and the potential for First Amendment rights violations, it was the consensus of the Commission to direct that a survey on this issue be developed to solicit information, alternatives and options on this matter for review by the Commission at its March meeting.
- I. **HOUSING :** Commissioner Scoville provided an update on Housing matters in the County and noted that the Commission's support had been requested for the Family Self Sufficiency Program to solicit funding. It was moved by Commissioner De La Selva, seconded by Commissioner Scoville to approve the request. There being no objection, it was so ordered. Commissioner Scoville would direct the appropriate correspondence.
- K. **STAFF REPORT:** None

## DISCUSSION

### Women in Action Lobby

Commissioner Rogalsky discussed the Women In Action Lobby scheduled in Sacramento on May 20, 1992. It was the consensus of the Commission to co-sponsor this event and to direct the Treasurer to complete the sponsor form and submit the \$25 co-sponsor fee.

## ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

STACEY B. MacDONALD, CHAIR  
COMMISSION FOR WOMEN