



MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

KEN EDWARDS CENTER
1527 4TH STREET
SANTA MONICA, CA 90401

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 8, 2020
7:00 PM

1. Call to Order: Meeting called to order at 7:00 PM by Chair Ghazarian

Roll Call

Present:

Chair Sylvia Ghazarian
Commissioner Joni Byun
Commissioner Elena Christopoulos
Vice Chair Melissa Goodman (arrived at 7:04PM)
Commissioner Diane Miller
Commissioner Kelsey O'Hara
Commissioner Nancy Pierandozzi
Commissioner Ty-Juana Taylor
Commissioner Jenny Vazquez-Newsum

2. Approval of Minutes from December 11, 2019 Regular Meeting – Chair Ghazarian.

Commissioner Pierandozzi moved, and Commissioner Byun seconded to approve the minutes of the December 11, 2019 Regular Meeting as amended. Motion passed unanimously by a voice vote with Commissioner Goodman absent.

3. Public Input – none
4. Presentation by Eve Lopez, Chair of Compass Rose, regarding designation of Compass Rose as historic landmark emblematic of the important role women played in the history of aviation in Santa Monica. Planning, discussion and possible action (20-minute presentation, 5minutes Q&A)

Key points of the presentation:

- Women in aviation history, and their contribution to aviation safety
- Obstacles faced by female pilots in early years of aviation, including different standards for obtaining certifications for female pilots, limited professional opportunities, exploitation

- of women pilots in marketing
- Santa Monica's role in equalizing opportunities as the site of the first air derby open to women pilots
- Santa Monica's role in the origins of the Ninety-Nines, a non-profit organization founded by women pilots to encourage other women to pursue aviation, with Amelia Earhart as the first President
- Women's role in the National Air Marking Program - the first U.S. government program conceived, planned and directed by a woman with an all-woman staff
- The origins of the compass rose at the Santa Monica Airport and Ninety-Niner's efforts to preserve this landmark.
- 5/30/2019 Landmark Commission's approval of the Ninety-Niners' application to designate the Santa Monica compass rose as a historic landmark, and the subsequent appeal to be considered by City Council in April 2020

Commissioners expressed their support for the landmark designation of the compass rose at the Santa Monica Airport while recognizing that it is not in the Commission's purview to weigh in on the legal aspect of the landmark designation.

Chair Ghazarian moved, and Commissioner Christopoulos seconded that the Commission write a letter to City Council supporting the landmark designation the Santa Monica Airport compass rose, and how it relates to the Commission's mission of exploring issues relevant to women and girls in Santa Monica. Motion passed unanimously by a voice vote.

Chair Ghazarian moved, and Commissioner Miller seconded that Chair Ghazarian and Vice Chair Goodman write the letter of support for preserving the compass rose the Santa Monica Airport compass rose. Motion passed unanimously by a voice vote.

5. Commissioner, Santa Monica High School (SAMOHI) Liaison and Staff Liaison announcements and correspondence.
 - Santa Monica High School (SAMOHI) Liaison was absent – no report
 - Commissioner Miller shared that the City TV was developing a series of television programs featuring women leaders, and that the 1st episode would feature the Commission on the Status of Women
 - Staff Liaison reminded Commissioners about the 2020 Homeless Count on 01/22/2020
 - Chair Ghazarian shared the news about the passing of Joanne Leavitt; information about the memorial service will be shared with Commissioners
6. Planning, discussion and possible action regarding FY19/20 Budget - Chair Ghazarian.

Chair Ghazarian noted that the date of the 2020 State of the City Economic Summit, 02/12/2020, coincides with the February meeting of the Commission. Chair Ghazarian

suggested cancelling the February meeting so that Commissioners can attend the State of the City.

Chair Ghazarian moved, and Commissioner Christopoulos seconded to cancel the 02/12/2020 Regular Meeting of the Commission. Motion passed by a voice vote (8-1-0).

Chair Ghazarian moved, and Commissioner Christopoulos seconded to allocate up to \$450 for the purchase of tickets for the 2020 State of the City Economic Summit. Motion passed by a voice vote (8-1-0).

Commissioner Byun provided background on the origins of the idea to collaborate with the organizers of Black History Month (BHM) events. Commissioners discussed providing financial support for the organizers of BHM events.

Chair Ghazarian moved, and Vice Chair Goodman seconded to allocate \$250 for the Black History Month events, a donation earmarked for the costs associated with the exhibit on display in the City Hall lobby. Motion passed by a voice vote (8-1-0).

Commissioner Christopoulos moved, and Commissioner Byun seconded for the \$250 allocation for Black History Month events to be taken out of the \$3,100 Women's History Month budget. Motion passed by a voice vote (8-1-0).

7. Reports from the Ad Hoc - planning, discussion, and possible action and related budget allocations for FY19/20 work plan and Ad Hoc: Supporting Safe Communities (Byun, Christopoulos, Pierandozzi, Taylor); Engaged Community (Byun, Ghazarian, Miller, O'Hara); Economic Opportunity and Equity (Ghazarian, Goodman, O'Hara, Vazquez-Newsum); Hotel Workers Protection Ordinance Development (Ghazarian, Goodman); Get Out the Vote (Miller, Christopoulos, Vazquez-Newsum, Goodman) - Chair Ghazarian.

- Supporting Safe Communities

Commissioner Christopoulos spoke about a Denim Day event planned for April 2020. At the March meeting, the ad hoc will request funds to be allocated for a Denim Day panel discussion event.

- Engaged Community

Commissioner Byun gave an update on Women's History Month (WHM) events:

- A draft of events calendar was shared with collaborators
- Reminder about the Women's History Month Proclamation at the 02/25/2020 City Council meeting and the evening reception
- Suggestion to serve Girl Scout Cookies instead of catered refreshments

Commissioner O'Hara gave an update on 2020 Census and voter registration event at Virginia Avenue Park on 03/14/2020

Chair Ghazarian shared that the City Hall and the Santa Monica Pier Ferris wheel would be lit up in white, purple and gold in celebration of WHM and the 100th anniversary of the passage of the 19th amendment.

- Economic Opportunity and Equity

Vice Chair Goodman reported that the ad hoc would select legislation for the Commission to support in 2020. The ad hoc recommends focusing on policy bills, and not on budget legislation.

Commissioner Miller gave an update on the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) ratification status - the state of Virginia is likely to ratify ERA this year.

Chair Ghazarian reported that a blogspot article about the Mt. St. Mary's University's Report on the Status of Women and Girls was submitted to the Office of Communications. The report will be presented at the 02/25/2020 City Council meeting.

- Hotel Workers Protection Ordinance Development
No report.

- Get Out the Vote

Commissioner Vazquez-Newsum reported that the ad hoc was finalizing the design of "vote" stickers. Commissioner Miller gave an update on "five by five" voter registration drive.

8. Future Agenda Items.

Commissioner Christopoulos suggested organizing a screening of "Nevertheless," a Sarah Moshman's documentary about the #MeToo movement.

9. Adjourn

On order of Commissioner Byun, the meeting was adjourned at 8:35PM.

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Any member of the public unable to attend a meeting but wishing to comment on an item(s) listed on the agenda may submit written comments prior to the meeting by mailing them to Commission on the Status of Women, Human Services Division, City of Santa Monica, 1685 Main St., Rm. 212, Santa Monica CA, 90401. Comments may also be emailed to COSW@smgov.net.