

**Hillsborough County Commission on the Status of Women
Meeting Recap-September 27, 2016**

The meeting was called to order by Chair India Witte.

Members present: Chair Witte, Vice Chair Jennifer Whelihan via phone, Denise Chavez, Linda D'Aquila via phone, Yvonne Fry, Connie Gage, Susan Leisner, Ann Madsen, Mindy Murphy and Tee Solomon.

Absent: Treasurer Kim DeBosier, Ashley Carl, Dotti Groover-Skipper and Ann Porter.

Welcome and Introductions: Chair Witte recognized guest Cathy James, Finance Manager for the Tampa Hillsborough Homeless Initiative who introduced herself.

Meeting Attendance: Chair Witte asked members to review the attendance log and to follow up with Ms. Warmack with any noted discrepancies. Ms. Warmack will share them with Chair Witte.

Approval of Meeting Recap: A motion was made by Ms. Madsen to approve the August meeting recap, and seconded by Ms. Fry. The motion passed unanimously.

Women's Hall of Fame (WHOF): WHOF Co-Chairs Ms. Leisner and Ms. Chavez, are establishing lists of tasks and indicated that volunteers are needed. Ms. D'Aquila volunteered. The Convention Center contract has been finalized and will be signed by Chair Witte. Ms. Warmack shared that she contacted, via email, past nominators with a request to re-submit their nominees from prior years; and that there are a few remaining ones she will contact through U.S. mail. The WHOF press release has been sent. Ms. Warmack will forward nomination packets to the BOCC; and a reminder press release will be sent to the media and COSW members. Ms. Fry and Ms. Warmack will work with the County Communications department on the scope of the new WHOF inductee video. Chair Witte asked that the video be added to the WHOF control document. It was decided that Doris Weatherford's book be given as the gift to inductees again this year.

Chair's Report:

County Funding: Chair Witte reported that the County reinstated \$10,000 in funding for the COSW. She distributed the funding request letter she sent to Commissioner Miller and County Administrator Mike Merrill. A COSW work plan with deliverables and a budget will be developed by the COSW. Thank you letters will be sent by the COSW to the County and COSW members will send them to their respective appointing Commissioners.

Advisory Council/Fall Forum: Ms. Fry reviewed the Advisory Council's second meeting. She indicated that Commissioner Murman encouraged the Council to collaborate with the County Communications department and that Commissioner Murman may attend the next meeting. Ms. Fry reported that a messaging campaign, rather than a transportation plan, is being considered as the approach for the Forum. Ms. DeBosier will invite Janet Zink, with the Tampa International Airport, to attend the October 4th meeting that takes place from 3 pm-5 pm. Chair Witte has invited Kelley Simms to attend the meeting. Ms. Fry will invite School Board member Melissa Snively and a School Board representative who can provide data. Ms. D'Aquila provided information regarding a transportation event to be held by the LWV on October 18th from 6 pm-8 pm. Ms. Solomon will propose to the National Council of Negro Women that transportation be a focus area of the organization. Ms. Warmack said she is in contact with senior County staff members who will provide a representative at the October 4th meeting to explain the BOCC's transportation initiative.

Friends of the COSW: Chair Witte stated that a FCOSW update is not necessary because all members were present at the Friends of the COSW meeting.

COSW Calendar: Chair Witte reviewed the COSW calendar and reminded members of the unofficial COSW holiday gathering on December 14th, from 6 pm-8 pm; and that there is no formal COSW meeting in December. Other community events were shared.

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ByLaws Committee: Chair Witte reported that the ByLaws Committee met following last month's meeting and that Ms. Carl will provide Ms. Warmack with a redlined draft of the ByLaws for the County to review. She would like the draft to be sent to the members prior to the October meeting so that it may be considered for approval there.

Florida Commission on the Status of Women (FLCOSW): Ms. Fry shared that Lee Leavengood is among the 10 FLCOSW's Hall of Fame finalists who will be considered by the Governor. The Governor will select three winners. She noted that the Hall of Fame event will be held in Orlando, in conjunction with the Florida Chamber and that she will provide more details.

Communications Update: Ms. Murphy has posted to the COSW Facebook page and requested that members like, share and rate the page, which has 325 likes. The most popular post received about 150 views.

Staff Update: Ms. Warmack requested that members send the community event information to her by 5 pm that afternoon so that she can forward it in one email to COSW members. She shared that all COSW meeting recaps are forwarded to the BOCC to be included in the meeting record. Ms. Warmack reminded members that the County's new website is in place and asked that members provide her with any feedback or submit it through the link on the site.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned by Chair Witte at 12:33 pm.

**** Staff directives underlined**