

**Hillsborough County Commission on the Status of Women  
Meeting Recap-April 26, 2016**

The meeting was called to order by Chair India Witte.

**Members present:** Chair India Witte, Vice Chair Jennifer Whelihan, Treasurer Kim DeBosier, Ashley Carl, Denise Chavez, Linda D'Aquila, Yvonne Fry, Connie Gage, Dotti Groover-Skipper, Susan Leisner, Ann Madsen, Ann Porter and Tee Solomon.

**Absent:** Stacy Frank and Mindy Murphy

**Additional attendees present:** Renee Warmack, COSW Staff Liaison Operations and Legislative Affairs; Beth Cardenas, Special Projects Manager, Operations and Legislative Affairs; Sara Mickelson, Administrator, Friends of the COSW.

**Meeting Attendance:** Chair Witte stated that during her orientation as the new Chair of the COSW, County staff encouraged the COSW to be mindful of meeting attendance requirements. COSW members reviewed and discussed the COSW Attendance Log and Bylaws. It was clarified that excused absences are determined by the Chair. Ms. Carl indicated that the Bylaws Committee will review the required number of members needed for a quorum. Ms. Fry shared that County Administration is working to make volunteer Board policies more consistent throughout the various bodies, and encouraged the COSW to consider this in its work.

**Approval of Meeting Recap:** A motion was made by Ms. DeBosier and seconded by Ms. D'Aquila to approve the February and March meeting recaps. The motion passed unanimously.

**YEA Awards:** The COSW selected the following youth as the 2016 YEA Award recipients in the Middle School Category: **Leadership**-Sylvia "Katie" Murphy; **Success Despite Difficult Odds**-Sarah Kennedy; and **Volunteer or Community Service**-James Colston. Winners in the High School Category are: **Leadership**-Njarhi Jackson (Ms. Warmack will ask that Communications verify spelling of this name.); **Success Despite Difficult Odds**-Donte' Glover; **Volunteer or Community Service**-Devin Johnson. Ms. Warmack asked members to please let her know if they will attend the May 4<sup>th</sup> BOCC meeting so that ample reserved seating could be secured.

**Women's Hall of Fame (WHOF):** Ms. Fry requested that Ms. Warmack have the 2016 WHOF Inductees' photos placed on the COSW website. Ms. Solomon agreed to provide the luncheon invocation. Program text, print and multi-media projects, congratulatory letters, sponsorships and name badge types were discussed. Chair Witte stated that USF could provide last minute graphic design assistance, should it be needed. She discussed attendance totals to date, and encouraged members to promote the luncheon. The guarantee count provided to the venue is 175 guests. Commissioner Murman has agreed to be on the program. Representative Castor provided the flags that were flown over the US Capitol. It was decided that COSW members would arrive at the Convention Center at 9:30 am the day of the luncheon.

**Chair Report:**

**Fall Forum:** Chair Witte led a discussion regarding the Mandate for Women's Wellness and prior Forum topics. A motion was made by Ms. Fry, and seconded by multiple members, to approve that the topic for the Fall Forum be transportation and how it affects women. The motion passed unanimously.

**Committee Leadership Appointments:** The following were appointed by Chair Witte-2017 Women's Hall of Fame Co-Chairs: Denise Chavez and Susan Leisner; Member: Linda D'Aquila. Fall Forum Chair: Jennifer Whelihan; Members: Yvonne Fry and Connie Gage. Special Projects Chair: Linda D'Aquila. Bylaws/Governance Chair: Ashley Carl; Members: Susan Leisner and Tee Solomon. Mindy Murphy will be asked to serve as Communications Committee Chair.

**2020 Women On Boards:** Women in Leadership and Philanthropy has voted to make gender equity a topic at its upcoming symposium.

**Friends of the COSW:** Chair Witte shared that the Friends of the COSW's financial status is good.

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**COSW Calendar:** Chair Witte stated that there may not be a July, 2016 COSW meeting, if progress towards COSW goals is satisfactory. A discussion ensued regarding the requirement to hold at least 10 meetings annually, as per the Bylaws. Chair Witte noted that a key deadline was to encourage WHOF ticket sales up to 24 hours prior to the event.

**Communications Update:** Ms. Warmack will continue to try to identify how the COSW Facebook page was set up and its login information. Ms. Groover-Skipper applauded Ms. Whelihan for her work with University of Tampa students who are partnering with The Free Network and Helen Gordon Davis Centre for Women.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned by Chair Witte.

**\*\* Staff directives underlined**