

Ventura County Commission for Women
3482 Loma Vista Road
Ventura, on September 26, 1981
Minutes

Commissioners Present:

Lauren Anderson
Mary Baird
Yvonne Gallegos Bodle
Virginia Connell
Rosemary Bird De Leonardis
Dorothy Engel
Lupe Gonsalves
Brook Hubbell
Mary Jane Johns
Jo-Anne Le Fils Moore
Ida Richardson
Rita Hernandez Romero
Sandra Smith Ryder
Erin Healy Sheffield
Stephen Wiman

Staff

Jean Getchell

Guests:

Edwin Jones - Supervisor, District II
Richard Wittenberg - Chief Administrative Officer, County of Ventura
Polly Bee - Administrative Assistant to Supervisor Erickson
Lee Lumbert - Administrative Assistant to Supervisor Dougherty
Jarryl Larson
Sue Minitz
Dennis Wagner - Star-Free Press

Call to Order

The first meeting of the Ventura County Commission for Women was called to order at 9:45 by Jean Getchell, Administrative Analyst, Chief Administrative Office - County of Ventura.

Ms. Getchell introduced Richard Wittenberg, Chief Administrative Officer, who made introductory remarks to the Commission members and introduced Polly Bee, Administrative Assistant for Supervisor Maggie Erickson, and Lee Lumbert, Administrative Assistant for Supervisor James Dougherty. Mr. Wittenberg then introduced Supervisor Ed Jones of Thousand Oaks who presented Certificates of Appointment to the Commissioners.

Role of Commissioners

Ms. Getchell explained the role of the Ventura County Commission for Women as it is to relate to the Ventura County Board of Supervisors. She indicated that the Commission would be a means by which individuals and women's organizations could report to the Board on conditions affecting the life of women, and

that the Commission would be the organization responsible for reviewing, analyzing, and making recommendations to the Board on issues related to women. She also indicated that the Commission would serve the Board of Supervisors in an advisory capacity, it would study conditions demonstrating discrimination due to sex or marital status, would provide a coordinating function with respect to the many community groups working to improve the quality of life for women, and would perform other work as assigned by the Board of Supervisors.

Ms. Getchell also indicated that each Commissioner would serve at the discretion of the appointing Supervisor, that the Commission was to meet at least once a month, that any by-laws adopted by the Commission would have to be approved by the Board of Supervisors, and that the Commission would have to present an annual program and operating budget to the Board at the same time as other County departments and agencies.

Concerning organizational development, Ms. Getchell indicated that the Commission was to meet monthly, that it was to establish a relationship with the State Commission on the Status of Women and was to establish communication with women groups throughout Ventura County. The Commission was to establish communication also with professional societies, Chambers of Commerce, schools and other groups designated by the Board of Supervisors. At the Board's request, the Commission was to perform legislative analysis and would deal with specific problems identified by the Board.

The Commission was to establish an office where the public could visit or call, and where information would be available or could be requested. The Commission was also to provide minutes of its meetings to the Board of Supervisors, the Chief Administrative Office, the Public Social Services Agency, cities, women's organizations, public libraries, the press and other interested groups. In addition, a bi-monthly newsletter was to be published by the Commission for distribution countywide. An annual report to the Board including the program accomplishments and an accounting of funds would be required.

Ms. Getchell indicated that the Board's establishment of the Commission and budgeting of funds assumed in-kind support from individuals and organizations for the work of the Commission. This was to include work by Commission members in the organizational development of the Commission. Work would be performed by the Ventura County Women Lawyers, the National Women's Political Caucus, the American Association of University Women, and the Federally Employed Women of Ventura County in legislative analysis. Information provided to the Board regarding women's activities would be gathered by several organizations identified as providing a coordinating function. These organizations include the American Association of University Women, the Federally Employed Women of Ventura County, the League of Women Voters, the Ventura/Oxnard Chapter of the National Organization for Women, the Simi/Conejo Chapter of the National Organization for Women, and the American Civil Liberties Union.

Concerning the Child Care Resources Development Project, Ms. Getchell indicated that the Commission was to prepare a final report to the Board detailing the accomplishments of the project. The project was to include a financial analysis of the cost-effectiveness and cost benefit of employer-provided child care, was to include meetings of the Commission with industry and other large businesses to develop employer-provided child care, and was to include work by the Commission with the Private Industry Council on transportation/child care as a barrier to employment to women on welfare. Fact finding in the Child Care Resource Development Project was to be done by the Commission members and by the American Association of University Women, the Conejo Junior Womens Club and the Business and Professional Women's Club.

Committees

Ms. Getchell also indicated that the Commission would need to establish committees to deal with by-laws, nomination/election of officers, and the Child Care Resource Project.

Budget

Yvonne Bodle questioned the amount provided in the budget for Organizational Development and the Child Care Resource Development Project. Ms. Getchell reviewed the budget and indicated the amounts provided for staff and for services and supplies, in both Organizational Development and in the Child Care Resource Development Project. Jarryl Larson indicated that certain costs might be covered by in-kind contributions from the private sector.

Child Care Resources Development Project Committee - the following persons volunteered to serve on the Committee for the Child Care Project:

Brook Hubbell
Rosemary De Leonardis
Ida Richardson
Lauren Anderson
Lupe Gonsalves
Sue Minitz (not a Commission member)

By-Laws Committee - the following persons volunteered to serve on the By-Laws Committee:

Virginia Connell
Lupe Gonsalves
Mary Jane Johns
Yvonne Bodle

Nominating Committee - the following persons volunteered to be on the Nominating Committee:

Joanne Moore
Dorothy Engel

Clearinghouse for Information

Erin Healy Sheffield suggested that the Commission serve as a clearinghouse on information for women and that a directory of women's services be developed. Erin Sheffield and Sandra Ryder volunteered to develop such a directory.

Welfare Housing and Job Development

Steve Wiman suggested that welfare housing and job development committees be established. Ms. Getchell indicated that the Board was to be advised of the desire of the Commission to work on any new committee or any new issues not specifically granted by the Board. Mr. Wiman then indicated that the Chief Administrative Office should discover what guidelines the Board would like to set on issues to be undertaken by the Commission.

Meetings

Ms. Moore discussed the issue of the Commission meeting more than once a month. Frequency of meetings will be discussed at later meetings.

Selection of Officers

The following persons were nominated as Chair Pro Tem:

Yvonne Gallegos Bodle and Virginia Connell

After discussion, the motion died.

Steve Wiman moved that Yvonne Bodle and Virginia Connell serve as Co-Chair Pro Tem. The motion was seconded by Mary Baird. After discussion, the motion passed.

The Position of Secretary Pro Tem - Jean Getchell explained that this position would be responsible for press releases, information going into the newsletter, and other public relations functions. Sandra Ryder was nominated by Erin Sheffield. The motion was seconded by Steve Wiman. After discussion, the motion passed.

Treasurer Pro Tem - the office of Treasurer would report to the Commission on financial accounting, would chair fund raising events, would present any other financial reports to the Board, and would handle internal financial operations. Erin Sheffield offered herself for Treasurer. Steve Wiman seconded the motion. After discussion the motion passed.

Mileage Reimbursement

The issue of savings in one area being used for mileage reimbursement was discussed. Ms. Getchell indicated that Board policy on reimbursement to Advisory Commission members was quite clear, i.e. mileage reimbursement was not provided. Ms. Getchell indicated that any contributions to the Ventura County Commission for Women probably could be earmarked for use toward mileage reimbursement.

The Nominating Committee was eliminated.

Communication Committee - it was the consensus of the Commission that this Committee would perform organizational development functions. Erin Sheffield moved that a Communication Committee be established. The motion was seconded by Virginia Connell. After discussion, the motion passed. The following persons volunteered to serve on the Communications Committee:

Erin Sheffield
Sandra Smith Ryder
Lauren Anderson
Ida Richardson
Mary Baird
Mary Jane Johns

Welfare Housing and Job Development

Steve Wiman volunteered to present welfare housing and job development issues to the Board of Supervisors. Dorothy Engel volunteered to help him. Yvonne Bodle suggested that welfare housing and job development be made a subcommittee of the Child Care Project Committee. Jarryl Larson volunteered to work on this also. It was the consensus of the Commission that welfare housing and job development be made a subcommittee of the Child Resources Development Committee.

Child Care Resources Development Committee - the following persons will serve on this committee:

Erin Sheffield
Rita Hernandez Romero
Joanne Moore
Erica Neville (not a Commission member)

Legislative Analysis

Virginia Connell discussed whether a legislative analysis committee should be formed. Steve Wiman volunteered to work on this individually.

Women's Day - Ventura College

Yvonne Bodle mentioned that on October 24, Ventura College would be presenting a Women's Day. Ms. Bodle invited all the Commissioners to become involved in the Women's Day, to have a table representing the Commission, and to be introduced during the ceremonies. At that time, the Commission could enlist other interested persons to work on Commission activities. The Commission could have a sign-up sheet for interested persons.

Dr. Sonia Johnson

Virginia Connell mentioned that the Ventura County Women's Equity Coalition would be having a reception on October 18 for Dr. Sonia Johnson, Chairman of Mormons for the ERA. Ms. Connell indicated that Dr. Johnson would speak at Cal Lutheran College on October 19 and that she would be speaking at Ventura College on October 20.

Regular Meeting Time

The Commission then discussed a regular meeting time. It was decided that the next meeting would be October 24 at Ventura College. The Commission would meet as a workshop where interested persons could attend. Other meetings would be November 14 at a place yet to be determined, and on December 12.

Brown Act

Steve Wiman suggested that the Chief Administrative Office get copies of the Brown Act from County Counsel to discover if committee meetings would require public notice.

Child Care Resources Development Project

It was suggested that committees present an analysis of issues to the Commission rather than recommendations. It was noted that the Child Care Committee would probably have to be publicly noticed if more than seven Commissioners were to meet as a committee.

There will be a meeting on Saturday, October 10 of the Child Care Committee. Dorothy Engel is to try to secure Supervisor Dougherty's office in Simi Valley as a meeting place. She is to contact the Chief Administrative Office so other Child Care Committee members can be so informed.

Communications Committee - The Communications Committee is to meet on Thursday, October 15 at 7:30 p.m. at Erin Sheffield's home in Camarillo.

By-Laws Committee - The Chief Administrative Office is to send copies of by-laws from other Commissions on the Status of Women to Committee members. The Committee will meet on Monday, October 5 at 7:30 in the Ventura College Administration Building Conference Room.

State Legislation

Ms. Getchell indicated that the Governor had signed a bill sponsored by Senator Carpenter which would study equal pay for comparable work.

Interviews for Typist

Ms. Getchell indicated that interviews would be held during the week of September 28 for the typist to be hired for the Commission.

Joan Wogulis, Chair of Santa Barbara County Commission for Women

Ms. Getchell indicated that Joan Wogulis, Chair of the Santa Barbara County Commission for Women, would be attending the meeting in November.

Correspondence

Ms. Getchell read a letter from the State Commission on the Status of Women congratulating Ventura County on establishing a Commission for Women.

She also read a letter from Cheryl Rosenberg, Director of Personnel at Pleasant Valley Hospital, regarding her interest in the Commission for Women. The letter was given to Steve Wiman because the letter indicated Ms. Rosenberg was interested in legislative analysis.

National Association of Commissions for Women - Membership

Virginia Connell moved, and Erin Sheffield seconded, that the Ventura County Commission for Women join the National Association of Commissions for Women. The motion passed. (Dues to be paid by Ventura County will be \$50.) Ms. Getchell was directed to submit a membership application on behalf of the Commission.

Other

Joanne Moore requested that the State Bulletin be sent to each of the Commissioners.

There being no other business, at 12:15 Joanne Moore moved that the Commission adjourn. The motion was seconded by Mary Baird. The motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,



JEAN GETCHELL
Administrative Analyst

JG:ICAO60h