



City and County of San Francisco

Commission on the Status of Women

Mayor London N. Breed

COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, August 21, 2024

5:00 pm

25 Van Ness, Room 610

Roster:

President Dr. Shokooh Miry (late)

Vice President Sophia Andary

Commissioner Sharon Chung

Commissioner Diane Jones Lowrey

Commissioner Dr. Anne Moses

Commissioner Dr. Raveena Rihal

Commissioner Ani Rivera

Note: The Commission will hear public comment on each item on the agenda before or during consideration of that item.

I. CALL TO ORDER

DISCUSSION

Vice President Andary called the meeting to order at 5:11 p.m. Ms. Blakely performed a roll call and confirmed that 6 of 7 Commissioners were present (quorum). Ms. Blakely read the land acknowledgment. Commissioner Miry joined the meeting during Agenda IV(A).

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

DISCUSSION and ACTION

The Commission reviewed and approved the minutes from the regular Commission meeting on June 26, 2024, without changes.

No public comment.

(Roll Call Vote) 6 ayes, 0 nays – Unanimous

III. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

DISCUSSION

Dr. Macaluso presented on behalf of Director Ellis, highlighting three key items. First, Mayor London Breed approved the budget for this fiscal year. The budget allocates \$14.3 million over the next two fiscal years to support the Department's mission of creating a more gender-equitable San Francisco for women, girls, and nonbinary people. Dr. Macaluso noted DOSW's ongoing collaboration with the Mayor's Office of Housing and Community Development to support the grantees of the Gender-Based Violence portfolio as it transitions to them.

Second, Dr. Macaluso briefly uplifted the recent work by the SF Bay Area SOL (Safety, Opportunity, and Lifelong Relationships) Collaborative and highlighted the Department's visit to Olive Crest in Orange County, expressing a desire to model a similar pilot in San Francisco.

Finally, DOSW continues to work with Clarity Social Research Group to complete the citywide community needs assessment.

No Commissioner Comment

No public comment

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. OASIS FOR GIRLS

LaVonda Baldwin, Executive Director of Oasis for Girls, presented to the Commission on the organization's mission, programming, and impact. Based in SOMA, the organization provides a safe space for girls, along with afterschool and summer programming for young women of color, aged 14-18, from under-resourced communities in San Francisco. Oasis' programming focuses on Arts and Activism, Life Skills, and Career Exploration. Each year Oasis serves 250 girls. Mayor Breed declared March 7, 2024 as Oasis for Girls Day in San Francisco.

Commissioner comment

Commissioners expressed deep appreciation for the programming provided by Oasis for Girls and the target demographic Oasis serves. They shared how their own teenage years would have benefited from space and programming similar to those currently offered by Oasis.

Commissioner Rivera— inquired about Oasis's current square footage and what amount would be ideal for its programming.

Director Baldwin— shared that Oasis currently operates in 3,000 sq. ft. and is searching for a space of about 5,000 sq. ft. in SOMA. She also noted that their programming does not exclusively serve SOMA and has participants from neighboring communities.

Commissioner Jones Lowrey— underscored the adverse climate for women, citing media as a notable significant factor. She discussed how the media landscape has changed over time to create a “third parent,” generally having a hurtful impact on youth.

Director Baldwin— affirmed this comment, responding by sharing Oasis' intentional approach to social media programming.

B. FY24-25 Elections

Commissioner Miry— invited fellow commissioners to nominate candidates for Commission Vice President. Commissioner Andary— nominated Commissioner Rivera. Commissioner Jones Lowery seconded the nomination.

Commissioner Miry— invited fellow commissioners to nominate candidates for Commission President. Commissioner Miry nominated Commissioner Andary. The nomination was seconded.

Commissioners motioned to elect the Commission Vice President, seconded by Commissioner Moses. Commissioner Rivera accepted the position.

Commissioner Chung motions to elect the Commission President. Commissioner Rihal seconded the motion. Commissioner Andary accepts the position of Commission President.

No public comment.

(Roll Call Vote) Commissioner Rivera as Commission Vice President for FY24-25: 7 ayes, 0 nays- Unanimous.

(Roll Call Vote) Commissioner Andary as Commission President for FY24-25: 7 ayes, 0 nays- Unanimous.

V. General Public Comment

Emberly Cross from CROC spoke about the significant positive impact the Commission's work has had on survivors. Emberly shared a powerful testimony from a client expressing gratitude for CROC's staff for helping them transition into a safe environment.

Raegan Joern from Bay Area Legal Aid shared the organization's scope of work and services to the Commission. She uplifted two cases that, while particularly litigious, successfully secured restraining orders for their clients. Joern noted that these services are in exceptionally high demand throughout the City, putting pressure on them to carefully consider whom to serve given limited time and resources.

VI. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:16 PM.