

**CITY OF NORWALK
COMMISSION ON STATUS OF WOMEN
REGULAR MEETING
VIA ZOOM TELECONFERENCE
MAY 8, 2023**

ATTENDANCE: Claudia Werman Conner, Chair; Sharon Baanante; Chantal Coffy, Ashley Gulyas, Sarah Rendon Garcia, Shannon O'Toole Giandurco, Jasmine Prezzie, Ivonne Zucco,

STAFF: Laoise King, City of Norwalk Mayor's Chief of Staff

Call to Order

Ms. Conner called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. and acknowledged those in attendance as noted above. It was noted that Laoise King was filling in for Michelle Woods Matthews.

Approval of Minutes – April 10, 2023

Ms. Baarante requested corrections: Correct the page numbers in the footers. Spelling of Kaputnyski should be Kapustnyski. Page 2: In paragraph 3, legislatures should be legislators, Under upcoming events in the last section, before Nice Festival add 'and the'

**** MS. BAANANTE MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE MEETING OF APRIL 10, 2023 AS CORRECTED WITH CHANGES NOTED.**

**** MOTION PASSED WITH ONE ABSTENTION (O'TOOLE GIANDURCO)**

Public Comment - none

New Business

Rally for Reproductive Rights

Ashley Gulyas provided an overview of the planned event by Norwalk Actions for Reproductive Justice on the Norwalk Green on Saturday, June 24 at 10 a.m. pending approval to use The Green this Thursday.

Documentary: "Take the Ice", by Rachel Koteen, a woman who grew up in Norwalk, is available for showing and is the story of the formation of the professional women's hockey league. Ms. O'Toole Giandurco added that there is a Norwalk organization 'Moms who Puck' that may want to be included to attend the viewing. More information to follow on the date and details with the Library.

City Of Norwalk
Commission- Status of Women
May 8, 2023

Advocacy efforts to support legislation this session. - Ban Child Marriage

Ms. Conner provided an update from State Representative Dominique Johnson that this is out of the House and now on to a vote by the Senate. She will keep pushing with Senators and keep the Commission posted on the timeframe.

Diversification of Boards of Commissions Committee

Ms. Reardon Garcia spoke about the membership guide and noted there have been more positions filled by women and the vacancies posted on the City's website.

Discussion about potentially merging Committees

There was discussion of combining sub-committees to avoid overlapping efforts on events. It was agreed by consensus to merge the Research and Community Outreach Committees.

Ms. King clarified a point of caution on the issue of transparency and suggested that the full Commission vote on programs and events whenever possible, as that is what goes into the minutes. There was discussion on the name of this merged committee and the best way to avoid duplication of efforts and overlap of programs.

- ** MS. ZUCCO MOVED TO APPROVE MERGING TWO SUBCOMMITTEES INTO ONE COMMITTEE TITLED OUTREACH AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT.
- ** MS. REARDON GARCIA SECONDED THE MOTION.
- ** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Outreach and Civic Engagement committees.

Stepping Stones Museum for Children collaboration

Ms. Reardon Garcia reported that they made connections on Saturday as many people came to the table to ask questions. Email addresses were collected for the survey and contact info was gathered for Norwalk Strong, Breast Cancer Recovery Group, League of Women Voters, and She Should Run – a national organization established to increase women from all walks of life to take their first steps toward public leadership.

Norwalk Public Library partnership –

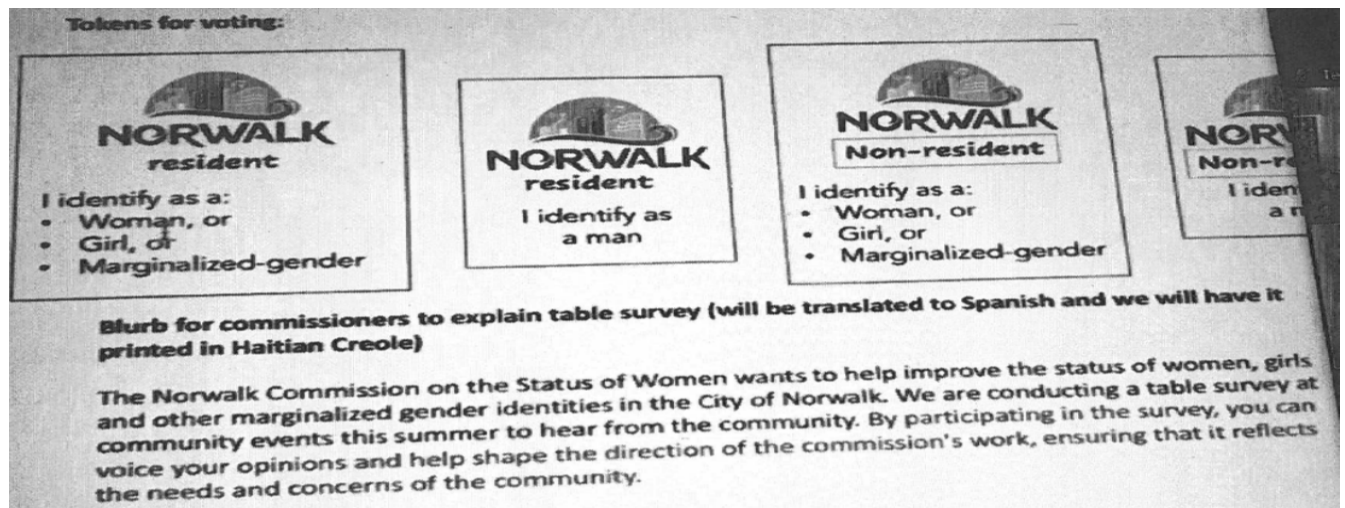
Ms. Gulyas reported she has met with Vicky Otis, Norwalk Public Library on a Book Club read event: “Two Generations” event on June 28. The Library will provide the space and the Committee will supply refreshments.

Meeting with Norwalk ACTs

Ms. Zucco reported Norwalk Acts is being invited to speak at upcoming events and details will follow.

Commission materials: PowerPoint presentation and two-sided brochure - Survey – Brochure. It was suggested to add a QR code to provide a comment to survey.

Ms. Zucco shared her screen to show the tokens for voting 'identify as', and the copy for the table survey and printed materials for events:



T-shirts

Ms. Prezzie showed the T-shirt design including names of the members. It was noted that the logo is changing, but the members felt this was not critical to hold up printing of the T-shirts.

** MS. O'TOOLE GIANDURCO MOVED TO APPROVE TSHIRTS TO BE PAID FOR BY THE COMMISSIONERS TO BE WORN AT EVENTS TO PROMOTE AWARENESS OF THE COMMISSION.

** MS. COFFY SECONDED THE MOTION.

** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Updates about the June meeting:

Ms. Conner noted that Rep. Lucy Dathan plans to attend.

Upcoming events for the Commissioners participation:

June Teenth at Ryan Park, SoNo Arts Festival, Nice Festival, Oyster Festival

Police Dept. Night Out, Farmer's Market (after July 8)

It was noted that there will be a sign up for shifts at the event tables.

City Of Norwalk

Commission- Status of Women

May 8, 2023

- Girl's Softball Field – Ms. O'Toole Giandurco provided the background on the field conditions at Norwalk High School that will remain as is due to the upcoming renovation. She added that Brien McMahon's turf field is great and should be the standard to achieve for a renovated field for Norwalk High.

Diversification on Boards and Commissions

Ms. Baanante reported that there is a new on-line application process to serve on a City Board or Commission. She will have Claudia reach out to Latoya for an update. Openings are now posted for the following boards:

Historical Commission
Planning & Zoning

She noted to give background on the application credentials for a better fit for a citizen to serve on a City Board. Ms. King mentioned that alternates have been attending meetings as members to give exposure to the boards that helps provide a transition.

Ms. Conner added that there is an opening on this Commission and encouraged members to email potential candidates to apply.

Ms. Conner applauded the members for all the hard work and noted her sincere appreciation for the wonderful work being done by the sub-committees on the programs to increase awareness of the Commission.

ADJOURNMENT

** MS. COFFY MOVED TO ADJOURN.

** MS. PREZZIE SECONDED.

** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

The meeting was adjourned at 8:13 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

M. Knox
Telesco Secretarial Services

City Of Norwalk
Commission- Status of Women
May 8, 2023