CITY OF NORWALK
COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN
REGULAR MEETING
FEBRUARY 10, 2025
ZOOM VIRTUAL MEETING

ATTENDANCE: Kristina Testa-Buzzee; Chair, Shanon O'Toole-Giandurco; Co-Vice Chair, Ivonne Zucco; Co-Vice Chair, Sharon Baanante, Emma Dignoti, Joy DeJaegar, Sarah Rendon-Garcia, Jasmine Prezzie (7:05 p.m.)

STAFF: Esther Murillo

I. CALL TO ORDER

** **MS. DIGNOTI MOVED TO CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER.**
** **MS. ZUCCO SECONDED THE MOTION.**
** **THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

The roll was called as reflected above.

III. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

A. Regular Meeting: January 13, 2025

** **MS. DIGNOTI MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES.**
** **MS. BAANANTE SECONDED THE MOTION.**

There was discussion regarding the misspelling of names.

** MS. O'TOOLE-GIANDURCO MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES AS AMMENDED.
** MS. BAANANTE SECONDED THE MOTION.

There was no vote to approve the minutes as amended.

IV. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation

Ms. Prezzie Joined the meeting at 7:05 p.m.

V. OLD BUSINESS

A. Policy and Advocacy Committee Discussion and Updates

Ms. Testa-Buzzee discussed the plan to create breakout groups. She elaborated on the plan and whether it would conform to FOIA rules. She stated that the meeting would serve as a discussion to determine action steps for the next meeting.

Ms. Testa-Buzzee thanked the Policy and Advocacy Committee for leading an informative and helpful meeting last month.

Ms. Zucco discussed supporting policies relevant to their work and the creation of a document listing the various alliances throughout the state of Connecticut.

Ms. Testa-Buzzee asked if there is an interest in having Melvette Hill, Executive Director for the state of Connecticut Commission for Women Children and Families. She said Ms. Hill is interested in meeting with them to discuss her commission's agenda and priorities.

Ms. Baanante indicated that the Policy and Advocacy Committee was meeting after the commission meeting had adjourned. Ms. Testa-Buzzee reminded them to keep notes on the session.

B. Community Outreach and Civic Engagement Committee Discussion and Updates

Ms. Testa-Buzzee discussed the awards ceremony. She said it seemed like a good time to help the committee with suggestions and ideas to help advance the work of the awards program. Ms.

Testa-Buzzee also asked if the committee had any follow-up on community outreach and the Sports, and Women in Sports presentation. She touched on various other events and whether the commission should be involved.

Returning to the awards ceremony Ms. O'Toole-Giandurco stated they were looking to June to have the event. She noted it was Pride Month which would tie into gender equity as a larger umbrella. Ms. Testa-Buzzee asked if there was an interest in the group to work on the event. Ms. Prezzie expressed interest and agreed June was better than March for the ceremony. She felt they should have a program in place as soon as possible to ensure things like space, speakers, and advertising will not be afterthoughts. She suggested a vote to move forward so they could decide on the agenda and planning.

Ms. Baanante if the project would fall on the Engagement Group Committee only. Ms. Testa-Buzzee indicated they would be the lead, but the Commission would be available to help in any way.

Ms. Rendon-Garcia requested clarification on who is currently on the committee. Ms. Testa-Buzzee listed the members as follows: Ms. DeJaegar, Ms. Prezzie, Ms. O'Toole-Giandurco, and Ms. Rendon-Garcia. Ms. Testa-Buzze responded to Ms. Giandurco's second question by stating if all goes well the new Commission name should be in place.

It was suggested by Ms. Rendon-Garcia and Ms. Zucco to make sure there were no competing Pride Month events when planning the ceremony. There was also discussion on the nominating process for the award. Ms. DeJaegar volunteered to reach out to City Hall to find out what activities have already been scheduled. She also asked about a possible late May date for the ceremony. There was concern that the awards ceremony wasn't a priority. Ms. Testa-Buzzee noted that in a previous meeting, the awards ceremony had been identified as a priority. Ms. Rendon-Garcia wondered in light of issues on the federal level if there was a way to do the event and give it more impact. Ms. Dignoti agreed with the idea of having more impact but said any event that would raise awareness of the commission, and uplift people who are doing important work was better than no event at all. Ms. Baanante offered to help with any necessary PR. She also acknowledged the group may not have the bandwidth to do the ceremony every year and should consider every other year.

Ms. Testa-Buzzee suggested the Engagement Group Committee meet and hammer out details, then present their recommendations to the larger group.

VI. <u>NEW BUSINESS</u>

A. Commission Openings

There was no discussion on the topic of Commission openings.

VII. DISCUSSION

There was no further discussion on the previos topics.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

**** MS. DEJAEGAR MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING.**
**** MS. ZUCCO SECONDED THE MOTION.**
**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted
China Mayhew
Telesco Secretarial Services