



COUNTY OF SAN MATEO

COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, February 27, 2024, 6:00-8:00pm

1. Call to Order and Land Acknowledgement

2. Roll Call

a. **Commissioners Present:**

b. Julissa Acosta, Ana Avendaño, Nirmala Bandrapalli, Dayna Chung, Trish Erwin, Ann Girard, La Sandra Gutter, Natalie Handel, Jess Hudson, Susan Kokores, Amani Shroff, Michelle Stewart, Ellen Tafeen, Susan Takalo, Rosie Tejada (late, no vote), Anisha Weber, Joy Zou
Staff: Tanya Beat, Jacki Rigoni

c. Absent: Aileen Cassinetto, Melissa Lukin, Aysha Pamukcu

3. Public Comment –

4. Action to Set Agenda and Approve Consent Agenda Items

Motion to approve by Anisha Weber, seconded by La Sandra Gutter. Ana Avendaño, Michelle Stewart abstained from vote. Approved.

CONSENT AGENDA

5. Approval of January Meeting Minutes

REGULAR AGENDA

6. Introduction of 2 new Commissioners

- Michelle Stewart, lives in EPA with her family. Among many different roles and volunteering, she is the Executive Director of Hope Hangar. Originally from Nigeria and grew up Melbourne, Australia and did high school in Beijing.
- Dr. Ana Avendaño, born and raised in SMC. Lives in Redwood City with her family. Has her doctorate. She is the Executive Director of El Concilio.

7. Accion Opportunity Fund: [Small Business Loans and Support - Accion Opportunity Fund - Accion Opportunity Fund \(aofund.org\)](#) – Presentation by Luz Urrutia, CEO

- Immigrated from Venezuela and started her career in banking.
- Very little progress with investing in women’s businesses.
- Women-owned businesses in SMC are primarily in education, healthcare, social assistance and professional services
- Accion Opportunity Fund provides the capital and loans for these small businesses. Not just funding but coaching, mentoring, and resources for navigating their businesses.
- Been around 30 years and headquartered in San Jose. 70% of the lending happens in CA.
- They have deployed 5 million of capital in SMC. Mostly in service industry.
- Build a lender’s file to help underwrite their funding.

8. Reports

- President:
 - i. Overview of 2024 and expectations going into 2025
 - ii. Report at BOS meeting on 3/12; accepting Women’s History Month Proclamation
 - iii. Equal Pay Pledge discussion: very positive. CSW supports the BOS to sign the Pledge.
 - 1. In the near future, the CSW could invite groups in SMC to sign the Pledge.
- Youth Commission:
 - i. April 13 at 2pm, Civic Engagement Summit, Redwood City Public Library
 - ii. May 23 Youth Commission Showcase; location and time TBD
- Director:
 - i. Women’s View Art Exhibit: need volunteer judges
 - ii. Women’s Hall of Fame
 - 1. Donations of wine from Ellen Tafeen and Dani Gasparini. Donations of beer from Ellen Tafeen and Rosie Tejada. Thank you!
 - 2. Non-alcoholic drinks will be there from catering
 - iii. RISE 2024
 - 1. Feedback Facilitators Training dates and times. Please select your preference.
 - 2. Overview of Feedback Facilitator Role

9. RISE 2024 Draft Presentations - Practice

- Impact of Child Care and Caregiving Challenges – present overview of findings and stories.
- Committees have time to meet and practice their presentations for RISE 2024
- Another goal is to put the handouts up on the CSW website before the conference for people to read the stories and review the data.

10. Commissioner Announcements

11. Adjournment