



**Commission for Women
MINUTES**

**REGULAR MEETING
May 5, 2010**

The Commission for Women convened in a regular meeting on May 5, 2010 at City Hall, 301 W. 2nd Street, Room #1101 in Austin, Texas.

Chair- Molly Barker called the Board Meeting to order at 1:35 p.m.

Board Members in Attendance:

Molly Barker, Angela Howard-Frederick, Veronica Garcia, Laurie Jones and Marilyn Bostick

Staff in Attendance: Carla Johnson and Karen Sharp

Guest in Attendance: Julia Cuba, Emergency Shelter, Iris Umani, Trinity Center and Marti Bier, Policy Aide Council Member Randy Shade's Office.

- 1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES- Commissioner Laurie Jones moved to accept the minutes from the regular meeting of March 3, 2010; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Howard-Frederick.**
- 2. OLD Business**
 - a. None**
- 3. NEW BUSINESS**

- 1. Carlson Network of Austin – Julia Cuba, Executive Director**

Carlson Network's presence is within the State of Texas primarily in Central Texas provide prevention programs for girls focused on teen pregnancy prevention, substance abuse prevention, and leadership growth, confidence and self esteem building and a focus on positive body image and academics. The program is called Club Jones and this is where we have high school girls who are paid to visit most schools around Central Texas where they teach curriculum that is based on the topics that were mentioned. There has been amazing success with this program. The first year we just kind of threw it out there and 400 people showed up. The second year we put a little bit more energy into it and 1100 people showed up.

However we are going to have to find a new location. We sat down to start looking at what that would look like and we realized that as a non-profit it would be pretty tough for us to pay the expense that it would cost to hold it at a convention center type area or a conference center. Base line cost for us would be somewhere around \$10,000 just for space rental. As a non-profit that's what we make on a conference. Therefore, it is not a revenue generator for us. And so we are compiling different ways that we could have the City of Austin to support the conference by waiving the fee for an event held at a place such as Palmer Events Center or other areas that may be City owned. So I wanted to come here today to appeal to you to consider waiving

that fee or receiving some kind of discount so that this conference can continue to grow in its future to the size that it could be. This board does not have the authorization to waive fees but we can make a recommendation to our council members to have them make a recommendation to the City manager of those sorts of steps of process.

2. Trinity Center – Irit Umani, Executive Director

I am relatively new to Trinity Center and I learned about the lack of services to the homeless women relatively recently but I have about 20 years of experience working on women issues including running shelters. I have been part of the movement to end domestic violence and the women of this movement in Israel and Palestine for many, many years and running a shelter in a crisis lab transitional housing for both Israel Jewish and Israeli Palestinian women together connecting that's why I see the connection between all kinds of oppressions.

The Trinity Center serves women only on Monday's. On Wednesday, Thursday and Friday's for anybody who shows up that we are aware that women have much less services available to the homeless women then men. The Arch is for men only and the Salvation Army is for family mostly. Though being the most vulnerable of the homeless population it is the most least served and saying it's the most vulnerable is that we can only imagine what it is likely for women to live under bridges and in parks and there isn't a week where we are not revealing a story of sexual harassment at the best scenario but much more severe attacks and they usually don't complain cause there is no where to hide. So, theoretically there are 10 beds for single women well when you have 10 beds in the city this size practically you have no beds cause those beds are always taken which means there are no services. We are reaching out for your help or some type of partnerships with other Emergency Shelter's. Our endeavor is to help the Single Homeless women.

3. March Event – Vice Chair Angela Howard-Frederick

March Event was great but very low turn-out. Only 35 women attended. Need to come up with a strategy of better networking for next year.

4. PUBLIC HEARINGS: None

5. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION: None

6. STAFF BRIEFINGS: None.

7. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS- Revisit Budget, Discussion of Sub-Committee, NACW Conference and Quality of Life Study of San Antonio

8. ADJOURN: Commissioner Jones moved to adjourn the meeting at 2:35 p.m., seconded by Commissioner Garcia without objection.