

**COMMISSION FOR WOMEN
MEETING MINUTES**

Wednesday, May 5, 2021



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**REGULAR MEETING
Wednesday, May 5, 2021**

The Commission for Women convened for a regular meeting on Wednesday, May 5, 2021 via videoconference.

Chair Austen called the Commission Meeting to order at 9:03 a.m.

Commissioners in Attendance:

Rebecca Austen, Chair
Flannery Bope, Vice Chair
Julia Cuba Lewis
Neva Fernandez
Juliana Gonzales
Diana Melendez
Hemali Patel
Josie Serrata
Sarah Tober

Commissioners Absent:

Vanessa Bissereth

Vacant:

District 6

Staff in Attendance:

Jonathan Babiak, Office of Civil Rights

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a. Consider approval of the minutes from the Commission for Women regular meeting on April 7, 2021.**

The minutes from the regular meeting on April 7, 2021 were approved on Chair Austen's motion, Vice Chair Bope's second on a vote of 9-0, with Commissioner Bissereth absent.

2. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Discussion and possible action regarding updated from the following working groups:**

- i. Homelessness**

Discussion was held. No action was taken.

ii. Safety

Discussion was held. No action was taken.

iii. Health

The motion to approve a recommendation to the City Council regarding Local Menstrual Health Equity was made on Vice Chair Bope's, Commissioner Gonzales' second on a vote of 6-0 with Commissioners Bissereth, Cuba Lewis, Serrata, and Tober absent.

iv. Recognition of Equity for Women and Girls

Discussion was held. No action was taken.

b. Discussion and possible action regarding updates from the Joint Inclusion Committee.

Discussion was held. No action was taken.

c. Discussion and possible action regarding updates from the Winter Storm Review Task Force

Discussion was held. No action was taken.

d. Discussion and possible action regarding 2021 Commission for Women Working Groups.

Discussion was held. No action was taken.

e. Discussion and possible action regarding the recommendation for the City of Austin FY2022 budget.

Discussion was held. No action was taken.

f. Discussion regarding transition of Commissions to the Civil Rights Office.

Discussion was held. No action was taken.

3. NEW BUSINESS

a. Discussion and possible action regarding appointments to the Commission for Women.

Discussion was held. No action was taken.

b. Presentation by Kimberly Theodore Sidey, Program Manager, Austin Community Foundation, and discussion and possible action regarding the Women's Fund, including research and grant making on addressing the escalating opportunity gap faced by women and especially women of color in the region.

Discussion was held. No action was taken.

c. Presentation by Amber Price, Community Health Paramedic for Persons Experiencing Homelessness, Homeless Outreach Street Team (HOST), Austin Travis County Emergency Medical Services, and discussion and possible action regarding programs and services for persons experiencing homelessness.

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The presenter was unavailable. On unanimous consent, the Commission requested this item be returned to a future agenda.

- d. Introduction of Carol Johnson, Civil Rights Officer, City of Austin Office of Civil Rights, and discussion and possible action regarding Commission for Women and Office of Civil Rights.**

Discussion was held. No action was taken.

4. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Austen adjourned the meeting at 10:33 a.m. without objection.