

**COMMISSION FOR WOMEN  
MEETING MINUTES**

**Wednesday, January 10th, 2018**



**COMMISSION FOR WOMEN  
MINUTES**

**REGULAR MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10<sup>TH</sup>, 2017**

The Commission for Women convened for a regular meeting on Wednesday, January 10th, 2018 at Terrazas Branch library, 1105 Cesar Chavez St., in Austin, Texas.

**Chair Tober called the Board Meeting to order at 12:01 p.m.**

**Commissioners in Attendance:**

Linda Powers  
Ana DeFrates  
Tanya Athar-Jogee, Vice-Chair  
Flannery Bope  
Kasha Gamble  
Sarah Tober, Chair  
Rebecca Austen  
Amanda Lewis

**Commissioners Absent:**

Julia Cuba Lewis  
Rossana Barrios

Vacancy: District 5

**Staff in Attendance:** Mary Aversa, Human Resources Dept.

**1. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION: GENERAL**

None

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Motion to approve minutes: Commissioner Bope**

**Second: Commissioner Austen**

**Approved 7-0**

**3. OLD BUSINESS**

**4. NEW BUSINESS**

- a. Rachel Alvarez of Refugee Services of Texas gave a presentation on the state of human trafficking in Central Texas. Alvarez reports that a coalition of organizations focused on prevention and victims' services is strengthening and forming working groups to combine efforts and resources. Support of the Governor's Office in educating State workers is appreciated and helping build awareness.
- b. **Discussion and possible action regarding Commission's top initiatives for 2018.**  
Remove hiring of the City Manager from top initiatives for 2018, but keep remaining 2017 as top initiatives for 2018. Commissioners noted their disappointment in transparency in City Manager hiring process and will recommend both transparency and rape kit backlog as a priority in Police Chief hiring process.

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Initiatives for 2018 are:

- Women's equity
  - Rape kit backlog and sexual assault survivor treatment
  - Women's Hall of Fame
  - Child/Women sex trafficking
  - Hiring of key City leadership
- c. **Discussion and possible action regarding Women's Equity Resolution**  
Commission would like to know what the sexual harassment training is going to be for City employees. Would like three council members to champion the Commission's recommendations, particularly with regard to CEDAW.
- d. **Discussion and possible action regarding rape kit backlog and sexual assault survivor treatment**  
Update: Funding for community counselors is in the right hands to begin the recommended work. Commission needs to continue to advocate for 5 additional FTE victims' services personnel. Working group will craft/reframe recommendations.
- e. **Discussion and possible action regarding Women's Hall of Fame 2018**  
Date for the induction and reception will be set for Friday, March 9<sup>th</sup> from 5-7 p.m. in Council Chambers and Atrium.
- f. **Discussion and possible action regarding child/women sex trafficking**  
No action
- g. **Discussion and possible action regarding hiring of City Manager and Police Chief**  
Discussed earlier during item 4b. *Note Commissioner Bope's recusal from discussing hiring of City Manager due to her employer, Austin American Statesman's pending lawsuit regarding this matter.*

**5. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

- a. Would like to schedule Kim Grabert for February regarding human trafficking

**ADJOURNMENT: Chair Tober adjourned the meeting at 1:01 p.m.**

The City of Austin is committed to compliance with the American with Disabilities Act. Reasonable modifications and equal access to communications will be provided upon request. Meeting locations are planned with wheelchair access. If requiring Sign Language Interpreters or alternative formats, please give notice at least 2 days (48 hours) before the meeting date. Please call Mary Aversa of the Human Resources Department at 512-530-8204, for additional information; TTY users route through Relay Texas at 711.

For more information on the Commission for Women, please contact Mary Aversa at 512-530-8204.