



Commission for Women
REGULAR CALLED MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, July 13, 2022

The Commission for Women convened in a regular meeting on Wednesday, July 13, 2022, at 6310 Wilhelmina Delco Dr., Permitting & Development Center; Rooms 1401 & 1402 in Austin, Texas.

Chair Rebecca Austen called the Commission for Women Meeting to order at 12:16 p.m.

Board Members/Commissioners in Attendance:

Flannery Bope, Vice Chair
Juliana Gonzales
Pam Rattan

Board Members/Commissioners in Attendance Remotely:

Rebecca Austen, Chair
Diana Melendez
Jocelyn Tau
Josephine Serrata
Neva Fernandez
Priscilla Cortez
Desiree Bermea (Camera Off)

Staff in Attendance:

Kiarrah Carlisle, Office of Civil Rights

PUBLIC COMMUNICATION: GENERAL

Tamela Saldana – Introduction as Acting Director of City of Austin’s Office of Civil Rights.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Approve the minutes of the Commission for Women regular meeting on May 04, 2022. **The minutes from the meeting of (05/04/2022) were approved on Chair Austen’s motion, Commissioner Rattan’s second on a (9-0) vote. (Commissioner Desiree Bermea was in virtual attendance, but camera was off. Commissioner Vanessa Bissereth was absent)**

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS

2. Discussion and possible action on Presentation by Carlos Soto, Research Analyst, Community Action Network (CAN) on women and children.
Discussion was held. No action was taken.
3. Discussion and possible action on approval updates to Working Group members.
The motion to approve updates to Working Group members was approved on Chair Rebecca Austen's motion, Vice Chair Flannery Bope's second on a 9-0 vote. (Commissioner Desiree Bermea was in virtual attendance, but camera was off. Commissioner Vanessa Bissereth was absent)
4. Discussion and possible action to elect new alternate for the Joint Inclusion Committee.
The motion to approve Diana Melendez as new alternate for the Joint Inclusion Committee was approved on Chair Rebecca Austen's motion, Vice Chair Flannery Bope's second on a 9-0 vote. (Commissioner Desiree Bermea was in virtual attendance, but camera was off. Commissioner Vanessa Bissereth was absent)
5. Discussion and possible action regarding the City of Austin annual budget process.
Discussion was held. No action was taken.
6. Discussion and possible action regarding the impact of the Supreme Court Dobbs decision on women and girls in Austin.
Discussion was held. No action was taken.
7. Approve a recommendation to support the GRACE Act
The motion to approve the recommendation 20220713-6: Support the GRACE Act (description of recommendation) was approved on Chair Rebecca Austen's motion, Vice Chair Flannery Bope's second on a (8-1) vote. (Commissioner Pam Rattan abstained. Commissioner Desiree Bermea was in virtual attendance, but camera was off. Commissioner Vanessa Bissereth was absent)

WORKING GROUP/COMMITTEE UPDATES

8. Member update from Working Group on Homelessness.
 - a. Rebecca Austen
 - b. Flannery Bope
 - c. Pam Rattan**Update was given by (Chair Rebecca Austen and Working Group on Homelessness).**
9. Member update from Working Group on Safety
 - a. Desiree Bermea
 - b. Neva Fernandez
 - c. Julianna Gonzales
 - d. Josie Serrata
 - e. Amanda Lewis***Update was given by (Chair Rebecca Austen and Working Group on Safety).**

10. Member update from Working Group on Health

- a. Flannery Bope
- b. Juliana Gonzales
- c. Diana Melendez
- d. Josie Serrata
- e. Jocelyn Tau

Update was given by (Chair Rebecca Austen and Working Group on Health).

11. Member update from Working Group on Recognition of Equity for Women and Girls

- a. Vanessa Bissereth
- b. Priscilla Cortez
- c. Diana Melendez

Update was given by (Chair Rebecca Austen and Working Group on Recognition of Equity for Women and Girls Health).

***Community participants**

Chair Rebecca Austen adjourned the meeting at 1:29 p.m. without objection.

The minutes were approved at the August 3, 2022 meeting on Chair Rebecca Austen's motion, Vice Chair Flannery Bope's second on a 7-0 vote.