

Marin Women's Commission — Business Meeting Minutes
Marin Women's Commission Planning Retreat
October 14, 2023
Dominican University, Creekside Room
50 Acacia Ave, San Rafael CA
9:00AM-2PM

I. Call to Order/Establish Quorum

9:00am

Present: Leslie Belingheri (LB), Samantha Ramirez (SR), Susannah Mrazek (SM), Sally Stocks (SS), Katie Koyfman (KK), Ajouah Grass (AG); Erika Rosales-Shelfo (ER) Aliyya Mattos (AM), Maureen Broderick (MB) arrived 9:12am. Newly appointed member not yet sworn in: Elizabeth Max (EM) arrived 9:09am.

II. Approval of Minutes for September 26, 2023

LB: Tabled to November meeting

KK/SM/p

III. Approval of Agenda for October 14, 2023

AM/SS/p

IV. Open Time for Members of the Public to Speak on Items not on the Agenda

No members of the public present.

V. Preliminary Budget

Discussion regarding \$15,000 reserved for MTGC; \$13,500 from the BOS; and \$4600 allocated from last year's budget.

Motion to approve the budget as is, with understanding we can adjust through the year as needed.

KK/SM/p

LB: MWC need to commit to \$20,000 for MTGC

SS and AM discuss allocating costs for MTGC budget.

LB: MWC can write a letter to the BOS requesting more funds.

Motion to allocate \$20,000, ask the BOS for more funds if needed or use funds MWC has on hand; continue to discuss.

SM/AM/p

California Commission on the Status of Women and Girls (CCSWG) Grant

LB: \$25,000 grant is conditional on proposal submitted by MWC for MTGC. MWC is the only commission in CA doing this. \$4600 is left over from 2022 For 2023, \$25,00 coming in with \$17,500 now and \$7500 after April 12, 2023.

Capacity building is part of the proposal and funds have been used for the logo project and focus groups. Another possible idea is transportation to the conference.

MB: Marin Airporter provides buses for transportation. They provided buses for Worldwide Women conference.

LB: Funds were also used for the spring meeting retreat and website redesign.

Motion to extend Erin Lacey contract through February, 2024. Erin is booked in March and will resume in April, 2024.

SS/KK/p

- VI. Welcome and Connecting- Dana Pepp, DPP Consulting
Dana Pepp discussed the Agenda and listening agreements for the day with the Commissioners.
- VII. What Does It Mean to Be A Commissioner
Commissioners began by discussing their goals for today: To know people better, find things in common, learn about commission, learn and listen, foundational work re-imagining, aligning priorities, focus, mission, clarity, hear all ideas, what you're excited about, listening, learning clarity, get to work.

Commissioners participated in a get to know yourself and traits activity.

Following the activity, Commissioners shared what it means to be Marin Women's Commissioner:

Uplift the experiences, needs and voice of the Latino/a/x, working class

Voice for community i.e. representation

Representative/amplifier

To learn the needs of all women in Marin

Seeing the issues, obstacles that women in each district face

Positive impact on girls

Bring women up and forward

Representing voices

Raise voices, hear voices

Work side by side

Collaborator

Support the next generation of girls

Legislation

Reporting to BOS what women and girls of County are experiencing

To associate with dynamic community leaders

Dual responsibility - Public face – voice of women and girls in the community + Public face of government in the community

To work side by side with other women who value community

To expand opportunities

To interface with other organizations that support all women and girls

Uniting women through education

To amplify and raise ideas and issues

Women centered networking

Collaborator with stakeholders and community partners

Support the next generation of girls of Marin County (MTGC)

Collaboration for Greater purpose

Steward of history

Bridge Builder – public and supervisors

Empowerment

Undetermined

United women through education

Being the voice I needed growing up – representation/uplift

Advocate - policy change and support system

Change agent

Empower expand opportunity – economic, political, social
Connect the voices and experience of others (women) to key decision makers
Creating and supporting legislation that impacts those who identify as woman and girls
To hopefully make friends who have similar interests and values
There is so much to be done for gender equality and equity
Improve the future for women and girls through advocacy
Educator policy and issue awareness
To learn how government works
Engage with BOS around women’s issues and provide lived experience and other perspectives

VIII. Ways & Opportunities to Connect with Marin Women

Commissioners suggested ways to connect with more women in Marin County.

Suggestions included:

Invite representatives from other commissions

Survey – DEI lens, QR Codes

Tabling at events

Tailor outreach approach to communities

Gifts/incentives

Texts

Events

Farmer’s market, swag, surveys

Listening - go to the events with that lens – be promoters

Make a calendar of events for Commissioners to attend

Attend Town Council Open Comments

SR: There are different types of communities in Marin County.

LB: Get more involved in our communities. Set a goal per district. Go to 2 events per quarter. Take turns with partner in your district. We should think about a point person to organize.

MB: Emergency cards plus a list of all resources for women and girls; identify all leaders.

LB: Write up proposals. Share with the Communications committee.

Further discussion re: connecting with women in Marin and listening:

Create a plan with structure, expectations

Where should we be contacting women (which events)?

Discussion re: committing once a quarter to go to events.

SM: There’s value in going and listening. Before being doers, find out what the experiences of women in different areas of Marin. Go outside your district.

IX. Commemorating 50th Anniversary

To do: Proposed Expectations of a Commissioner

November meeting: find a person to work on the 50th year celebration

Importance of the celebration:

A branding moment, opportunity to tell our story

Big Deal

Presidential Election Year

Look back, look forward

Legacy
Opportunity to thank Partners

Possible ideas:

Marin Magazine
YWCA Recognition – have teen girls do the introductions, invite others to the event, have an information table
OP-ED
Happy hour – to celebrate
Attend the YWCA 12/8 networking event at Sabor A Mexico
Coordinate or partner to have a “Give Back, Awareness Day”
Plaque to honor our past
Legislative policy
Proclamation – BOS

Legacy Award at YWCA Event
KK: on nominating committee for Hall of Fame
Have a part and purpose at the YWCA event every year

X. Committees

Marin Teen Girl Conference

SR presented a MTGC trivia game for the Commissioners:

1. 2024 will be the 12th MTGC. (12th)
2. Previous keynote speakers were: (all of the above)
 - a. US Ambassador
 - b. Owner of a beauty brand
 - c. Div. 1 volleyball player
 - d. Teen non-profit leader
 - e. Olympian
 - f. Contestant on the TV show “Survivor”
3. Guess the highest attendance at a MTGC. (240)
4. How many years have we provided Spanish translation? (2)
5. Besides Embassy Suites, where has the MTGC been hosted? (Marin County Office of Education)

Why is the Marin Teen Girls Conference so important?

Free, inclusive
All of our goals into 1 day!
Mission of the Commission
What we are known for
Board of Supervisors is very supportive of it
Innovative
Advocacy component
Collaborative, connection with partners, story-telling opportunities
Commissioners all work together

Workshop Ideas for 8th – 12th graders)

- Journaling
- Build a resume, LinkedIn
- Volunteering and civic engagement
- Public Speaking
- Financial Planning
- Social Media, consuming information
- Narcan
- Give-aways
- Mechanics, trades
- Latinx photography project
- Stem – coding, careers in science
- Life skills - Sexual health; Cooking; Etiquette; Adulting 101; How to be successful in different spaces; Shark tank, business ideas; Salsa Dancing, hip hop, silent disco; yoga, etc.

Commissioner role for MTGC:

SR and AM – leads

SR: work on making the conference fun

AM: will reach out to commissioners to join in planning and to attend planning meetings

SS: treasurer

MB: will connect with Marin Link, raise money

ER: décor and logistics, photography

EM: registration, look into van transportation from

West Marin

LB: grant reporting

Communications and Legislation - SM/KK/AG chairs

Agreed to meet 1-2 times per quarter

For everyone who identifies as women and girls + nonbinary

Website, social media, newsletter, press releases, events, joint campaigns (shared posts)

Speaking – council meetings

Editorial calendar, template

Improve communications

Social media, legislature priorities

Collaboration with the State of California

MTGC - include voter registration

Newsletter structure, emails

2600 people on the MWC mailing list so far

Website update

Collaboration, partnerships

Plug into more newsletters (BOS)

Enable English/Spanish capacity

XI Closing

Commissioners shared their take-aways from the retreat.

X. Adjournment

2:05pm



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