

Mayor's Commission on the Status of Women

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

August 27th, 2024, 12:30-1:30PM

Lawton City Hall – Ballroom

212 SW 9th Street, Lawton, OK

Chair – Teresa Abram

Secretary – Liz Ware

I MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: 12:35PM By Teresa Abrams, Chair

ROLL CALL: Bernita Taylor

MEMBERS PRESENT: Wyonna Alberty, Teresa Abrams, Bernita Taylor, ULisa Williams, Cheryl Tate, Tiera Acree, Dana Parrish, Donna Lynn, Kerrie Matthews, and Cynthia Sosa were in attendance.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Patricia Williams, Jennifer Bradley, Dobanney Scott, Leslie Watts, Yvonne Landmark, Kristen Ward, Liz Ware

II WELCOME GUESTS: Nicky Pack (new commissioner; ward 6) and Nicki McKinney (new commissioner; ward 7), and Donalynn Blazek-Scherler, City of Lawton Representative

III INVOCATION: Wyonna Alberty

NOTE: Those in attendance are not required to join in prayer if they feel uncomfortable doing so. All are encouraged to offer a silent prayer in their heart in accordance with their faith and belief.

IV BUSINESS:

MINUTES: Minutes

A) Consider approval of the June 25, 2024 Mayor's Commission on the Status of Women minutes. As no minutes were available, the item was tabled.

B) **FINANCIALS:** No report available, item tabled.

V REPORTS:

OFFICERS:

- **CHAIRPERSON:** Teresa Abram—Welcomed Nicky Pack, new commissioner for Ward 6; Nicki McKinney, new commissioner for Ward 7, and Donalynn Blazek-Scherler, City of Lawton Representative
 - Oath of Office conducted for the new commissioners
 - City Council voted to make changes to ordinance governing the MCSW. They eliminated the need for representation in two districts. Also, did away with need to have 21 seats; only required to have 17 members. A member from the City

Manager's office or Mayor's office can sit in on our meetings to help us make quorum.

--Kristen Ward and Dobonney Scott's districts were eliminated. They can stay on the executive board. If they decide not to stay on the commission, we will need to fill the 2nd Vice President position.

--Councilwoman Shereen Williams appointed Nikki McKinney as new commissioner for ward 7.

--Several committees need Chairpersons and volunteers. Everyone was asked to sign up on a committee. Signup sheet went around the room.

--Membership Chair is needed.

--Everyone is asked to help with Woman of the Year Ceremony (WOY). The ceremony is held in August. Nominees are requested by February; April is deadline for turning in information on nominees. Because of the expense, the commission started having the WOY ceremony with the City of Lawton during its Birthday celebration.

--Thank you card from Patty Neuwirth thanking the MCOSW for Outstanding Citizen of Comanche County recognition.

--Recommitment letters still need to be turned in.

- **FIRST VICE-CHAIR:** Wyonna Alberty
 - WOMAN OF THE YEAR:** Recap of celebration. All went well. Thanked Cheryl Tate for bringing the flowers to the ceremony for the three WOY recipients.
 - To make the ceremony more special, Wyonna shared she would like to go back to having the ceremony separate from the COL birthday celebration. She expressed interest in having an alternate date, time, and place for the ceremony. She would like to have one winner, rather than three and keep the winner secret until the evening of ceremony. Committee plans to discuss. Ideas are welcome; please bring them to the next MCOSW meeting.
- **SECOND VICE-CHAIR:** Kristen Ward-absent; no report
- **TREASURER:** Dobanney Scott-absent; she was in the hospital; no report
- **RECORDING/CORRESPONDING SECRETARY:** Liz Ware-- no minutes today; absent.
- **PARLIAMENTARIAN:** Dana Parrish-no report.

COMMITTEE CHAIRS:

Discuss Committee Signups and Chairs

- **MEMBERSHIP:** Needs at least two volunteers; a chair and at least one volunteer. No report.
- **PUBLICITY/SOCIAL MEDIA:** Cheryl Tate expressed need for permissions to share certain events via social media.
- **EDUCATION:** Tiera Acree—Memorandum of understanding with Great Plains Technology Center. Working on Women Veterans Traveling Exhibit with Cynthia and ULisa. The goal is to have something in place by November's meeting.
- **OUTSTANDING CITIZEN OF COMANCHE COUNTY:** Dana Parrish, Cheryl Tate—They need nominees. Form is online and on Facebook. Alberty said she has two nominees. Ideally, would like to have person or group chosen before September council meeting. As a reminder, the City Council's new meeting time of 6:00pm. Commissioners are asked to attend if they can.
- **SET FOR SUCCESS:** Bernita Taylor, Dobanney Scott—there is a need for men's slacks. The Work Ready Program has its own location. Looking for employers who can

pay at least \$15 per hour and up with benefits. She will also let us know what is most needed for participants in the M.I.G.H.T. program.

- **5-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN:** Leslie Watts, Kerrie Matthews, Wyonna Alberty—facility is still being sought that can offer privacy, where persons can be treated with respect, and dignity.
- **STEERING COMMITTEE:** ULisa Williams, Cynthia Sosa—ULisa met with Danielle Brewer about sharing with other organizations about what the MCSW does. Also, talked about how to stay on track with the mission.
- **BYLAWS:** ULisa Williams—Expressed need to make changes since the 2nd VP is supposed to chair Bylaws committee. Bylaws were recently revised.
- **NOMINATING:** Yvonne Landmark-absent. A commissioner is needed for ward 1.

VII ANNOUNCEMENTS: Please email committee reports to Teresa in advance of meetings. She will need to put a copy on file in the mayor's office.

- **September OCCC Presentation** – Will there be a presentation?
- **New City Council meeting time is 6:00pm**
- **Next MCOSW Meeting: September 24, 2024, 12:30pm – Ballroom.**

VIII ADJOURNMENT: 1:18pm

- **Motion to adjourn made by: Bernita Taylor**
- **2nd: Dana Parrish**
- **All agreed; none opposed.**
- **Cynthia Sosa, took notes for Secretary**
- **Teresa Abram, Chair**