



MEETING MINUTES
MAYOR'S COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN
January 24, 2023
Lawton City Hall - 1st Floor Banquet Room
212 SW 9th Street

- I CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL:** Woodson called the meeting to order at 12:07 PM, Blackburn conducted the roll call:
Present: Charise Walker, Dana Parrish, Danielle Brewer, Ginny Sahler, Luanne Gallagher, Maria Meredith, Bernita Taylor, Rebekah Pulicar, U. Lisa Williams, Cheryl Tate, Teresa Abram, Patricia Williams, Dani Blackburn, Christina Woodson
Absent: Melody Scott, Brandi Thomas, Dobanney Scott, Jean Peterson, Sarah Woods
14 present, quorum established
- II INVOCATION:** Bernita Taylor gave the invocation
- III WELCOME:**
RETURNING COMMISSIONER - Teresa Abrams
GUESTS: Welcome guests
- IV BUSINESS:**
- A) **MINUTES:** Consider approval of the December 6, 2022 Mayor's Commission on the Status of Women minutes. (minutes on file with City Clerk)
 - a) Motion to approve the minutes as presented: D. Brewer
 - b) Second: U. Williams
 - c) Discussion: None
 - d) Blackburn called the roll: 13Y, 0N, Motion Carries.
 - B) **FINANCIALS:** Consider approval of the financial statement prepared for January 1, 2023. (Copy of financial statements are on file in the Office of the City Clerk)
 - a) Motion to approve the financials as presented: G. Sahler
 - b) Second: M. Meredith
 - c) Discussion: None
 - d) Blackburn called the roll: 13Y, 0N, Motion Carries
 - C) **WOMAN OF THE YEAR AWARDS BANQUET:** Discuss and take necessary action on WOTY Proposal.
 - a) Woodson presented a proposal to move the WOTY ceremony to be in conjunction with the COL Birthday Celebration. The event subcommittee met and discussed that we no longer have as many generous contributions toward the event as we did pre-covid, and the event cost estimates were escalating to \$4,000-\$7,000. After speaking with Mayor to address the budgetary needs for executing an event as we used to have, he suggested that a budget amendment would be next to impossible, and that we could consider hosting the event in conjunction with the City of Lawton Birthday Celebration, where most of the costs would be eliminated for MCSW. The event would also bring in more visibility than a stand alone event.
 - b) The commissioners engaged in conversation about how previous events were funded though out of pocket contributions of Commissioners and Community donations. While we can and should still seek Community contributions we must prepare a sustainable event. The Commissioners also discussed how the COL Birthday is usually executed. U. Williams expressed a point of procedure that we do not have a motion yet in order to

discuss. Woodson expressed that Robert's Rules allows for discussion pre-motion. Blackburn expressed that she would motion.

- c) Motion to reconsider the motion that was previously passed on December 6, 2022 to hold the WOTY ceremony in May and amend to state that the event will now occur in August in conjunction with the COL Birthday celebration: D. Blackburn
- d) Second: U. Williams.
- e) Discussion: Further discussion ensued. U. Williams noted that August is also Women's Equality Month and that would be a good opportunity to celebrate that as well. Woodson closed the floor for comment to vote on the motion on the floor.
- f) Blackburn called the roll: 13Y, 0N, Motion Carries

V REPORTS:

OFFICERS: Woodson presented the Officers Reports:

- **CHAIRPERSON:** Christina Woodson- Movement continues on the MCSW Strategic Plan. Plans for the Living Women in History project have begun. See **EDUCATION REPORT** for more information. Meetings with the Mayor and City Council Members are being scheduled. See **ANNOUNCEMENTS** for upcoming dates. Christina will be contacting Commissioners from the respective wards in addition to 1 At Large Commissioner for each meeting.
- **FIRST VICE CHAIR:** Charise Walker - Nothing new to report
- **SECOND VICE CHAIR:** Maria Meredith - Nothing new to report
- **TREASURER:** OPEN - Nothing new aside from financials presented above.
- **RECORDING/CORRESPONDING SECRETARY:** Dani Blackburn- Nothing new to report
- **PARLIAMENTARIAN:** Sarah Woods- Nothing new to report

COMMITTEE CHAIRS: Woodson and committee chairs presented their reports:

- **MEMBERSHIP:** Patricia Williams presented that membership team SOP is going through final revisions and will be sent to all Commissioners for review prior to the February meeting. Board Buddies have been assigned - more information to come!
- **PUBLICITY/SOCIAL MEDIA:** Cheryl Tate - Please please, please make a regular effort to promote our website. Please like and share so we can be visible.
- **EDUCATION:** Charise Walker- (report given by Christina Woodson) As part of our 12 month Strategic Plan and as an outreach of the Education committee, talks have begun to create a static display honoring women in the military called Living Women in History. Mayor Booker has already given his approval. This project is being headed up by Commissioner U. Lisa Williams. If you are interested in participating with this project please email Christina Woodson or U. Lisa Williams. More information to come soon!
- **OUTSTANDING CITIZEN OF COMANCHE COUNTY:** Dana Parrish- we have 2 applications that are currently being processed and scheduled by the City for February and March. We need all Commissioners to ask other groups, businesses, your churches, etc... Ask everyone to suggest and nominate people as outstanding citizens. Heroes are all around us and we want to honor them!
- **SUITS FOR SUCCESS:** Bernita Taylor - Christina has been notified by CSL that they need the space currently housing Suits for Success. We must have everything out by March 1st. Bernita has agreed to accept and distribute the clothing through the Might Academy. All items have been boxed up and are ready to be picked up and delivered to Might Academy. **Pick-up and transfer day is scheduled for Friday, February 3, 2023 @ 10:00am. We will meet at Cosmetic Specialty Labs located at 210 SW Texas Ave., Lawton, OK 73501. After the transfer (12:00-1:00pm) on February 3rd - Bernita will hold a meeting @ Might Academy (see address below in ANNOUNCEMENTS) for all that are interested in serving on this committee. Lunch will be provided (please RSVP to Bernita for lunch).** Changes are coming to Suits for Success so come out and be a part of this change!
- **5-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN:** OPEN- Nothing new to report.
- **STEERING COMMITTEE:** Danielle Brewer- The Steering Committee met on 12/13/2022. (See Attached minutes of the meeting for details.) Brewer recapped the meeting and presented the importance of everyone knowing our mission and responsibilities as we move forward steering the Commission forward.
- **BYLAWS:** Sarah Woods, Maria Meredith, Dani Blackburn- (Report from Dani Blackburn) Bylaws revisions are still under way and will be sent to COL Attorney John Ratliff for final review before presentation to MCSW Board for approval.

- **NOMINATING:** Sarah Woods- Sarah Woods and Bernita Taylor will be approaching Commissioners in the next month to determine interest in holding office. Any Commissioner interested in helping, please email Sarah Woods.

MCSW BYLAWS

Article VII, Section 5. *The Nominating Committee for Election of Officers shall:*

- A. Be chaired by the Parliamentarian and consist of the parliamentarian and two active MCSW members, excluding those interested in being nominated for election as an officer, other than the Parliamentarian.*
- B. Nominating Committee shall be formed no later than the February meeting.*
- C. Accept nominations for the five (5) officer positions of the MCSW at the regular meeting in March;*
- D. Contact all MCSW members individually to determine their interest in holding an office; and prepare a slate of one (1) or more nominees for each elected officer position and present it to the MCSW at the regular April meeting, or at least thirty (30) days prior to voting. The slate shall include the nominations received from the floor, names obtained by individually contacting MCSW members, and any suggestions the Nominating Committee may have.*

VI Announcements:

- **FEBRUARY 1, 2023 @ 1:00-2:00 pm** - Meeting with the Mayor and Ward 1 City Council Woman Mary Ann Hankins.
- **FEBRUARY 3, 2023 @ 10:00 am** - Transfer Suits for Success Boxes to Might Academy: We will meet at Cosmetic Specialty Labs located at 210 SW Texas Ave, Lawton, OK 73501.
- **FEBRUARY 3, 2023 @ 12:00-1:00 pm** - Suits For Success Committee Meeting from 12-1:00 pm at The Might Academy located at 714 SW 45th Street, Lawton, OK 73506
- **FEBRUARY 28, 2023 @ 2:00 pm** - Outstanding Citizen of Comanche County Presentation to Glen Gatling. Presentation will take place at the Lawton City Council Meeting.
- **Next MCSW Meeting: February 28, 2023**

VII Adjournment: Prior to requesting a motion to adjourn, Woodson recognized Luanne Gallagher's service on on the Commission as this is the last meeting of her term.

- A. Motion to adjourn: L Gallagher
- B. Second: T. Abram
- C. Blackburn called the roll: 13Y, 0N
- D. Meeting adjourned at 1:03 pm

Minutes submitted February 1, 2023:

Dani Blackburn

Dani Blackburn, Secretary

Christina Woodson

Christina Woodson, Chairwoman