

Marin Women's Commission — Minutes
Tuesday, May 27, 2025 – 5:30pm to 8:00pm
Planning Retreat
Dominican University, Creekside Room, San Rafael, CA 94901

MINUTES

- I. Call to Order/Establish Quorum 5:48pm
Present: Leslie Belingheri, Sonia Saltzman, Heather McPhail Sridharan, Susannah Mrazek, Elizabeth Max, Katie Koyfman, Erika Rosales-Shelfo; Cris Criollo. Absent: Carole Simon Mills (travelling), Caroline Vance Bruister (family obligation), Fran Calle La Bou.
- II. Motion for Approval of Minutes for April 22, 2025 SM/EM/p
- III. Motion for Approval of Agenda for May 27, 2025 SS/KK/p
- IV. Open Time for Members of the Public to Speak on Items not on the Agenda
None.
- V. Nominating Committee: Vote for 2025-26 Executive Committee Officers
Nomination slate of 2025-2026 Marin Women's Commission officers:
Chair: Elizabeth Max
Vice-Chair: Sonia Saltzman
Secretary/Treasurer: Fran Cale La Bou
NACW (National Association of Commissions for Women) Representative: Heather McPhail Sridharan
ACCW (The Associations of California Commissions for Women) Representative: Cris Criollo
ACCW Alternates: Erika Rosales-Shelfo
Nominating Committee: Leslie Belingheri, Carole Simon Mills
- Motion to Approve 2025-2026 Slate beginning July 1, 2025 KK/ER/p
- VI. Review 2026 MTGC Proposal: Discussion and Vote – Liz and Sonia
Discussion regarding Elizabeth Max and Sonia Saltzman's MTGC proposal to collaborate with the Community Resiliency Team (CRT). It is a County funded collaborative to include Marin City, Canal Alliance, Blue Path Health, North Marin Community Services, West Marin Community Services, Marin County Office of Education, and San Geronimo Valley.

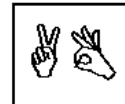
The collaboration will form a liaison for Health and wellness and MTGC. It will also help with outreach to low income communities in Marin County which have been lacking.

Elizabeth Max has spoken with both CRT and the County. On June 12, 2025, Liz and Sonia Saltzman would like to make a presentation to CRT at the San Geronimo Community Center.

LB: For continuity, this is the best idea going forward. MTGC will need money because the MWC has received the CCSWG grants of \$25,000 for the past two years so will not be eligible this coming year. Fundraising will have to cover more expenses and County money is also needed.

SM: A decision has to be made by September so that there is sufficient time to plan.

HMS: MWC should hold on to the budgeting decisions.



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EM: We will use the model we have with help from CRT. CRT has connections built on professional relationships and have been doing events for 4+ years.

Motion for to present the MTGC collaborative for approval to CRT. EM/KK/p

- VII. Vote to approve \$1K towards MTGC Consulting Fees
LB: Erin Lacey and Kim Dault are the MTGC professional event planners.

Motion to approve \$1000 toward MTGC consulting fees. EM/ER/p

- VIII. Welcome and Connection, Dana Pepp, DPP Consulting
Review Listening Agreements: step up, step back; ask questions, don't make assumptions; listen to understand; stay open-minded; assume good will.

- IX. 2025-2026 Term Planning and Discussion
Team planning and discussion was discussed during the retreat.

At this time of transitions and changes for the Commission, Commissioners shared their superpowers: empath, ability to feel other people's feelings; motivating engagement; turn bad vibes around; patience and ability to understand; consensus builder, empathetic; problem solver, creative, planner; making people laugh in uncomfortable situations.

The Commission and its members have many positives: Optimism, motivation, understanding, curiosity, discernment, genuineness, passion, creative thinkers, consensus builders, resiliency, change-makers, strength, perspective, patience, humor, fun.

What skills or traits are missing from this list of superpowers: Initiative – make it happen, go beyond MTGC; Personal responsibility –grit, accountability; Someone who likes to work with numbers; African American/black woman; Keeping intersectionality up front; Intentionality; focus.

Review of the MWC Vision and Mission Statements.

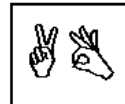
Discussion regarding Expectations of a Commissioner: Attend every meeting you can (10-12 meetings per year); Serve on a committee; 5 hours minimum beyond meetings; MWC agreed to be responsive; report back twice yearly to their Supervisors (email and/or in person).

Cris Criollo and Heather McPhail Sridharan reported on what other Women's Commissions' websites state they are doing in California. Discussion included San Francisco; San Mateo; Santa Cruz; Contra Costa; Santa Barbara, Los Angeles; and San Luis Obispo.

What are do-able Ideas for the MWC?: Know your rights; Collaboration – partnering (currently partnering with YWCA Women's Hall of Fame and Legacy Fund. Also partnering with AAUW and YWCA Rising Vanguard.); Create/partner to create research and reports to share; Survey – Partner with Dominican or COM; volunteer opportunity for Commissioners; Ambassadors and how do we bring in more young women and the youth voice; Collaborate on a speaker series; Book tour with Book Passage or Marin County Library; Monument to a local female black icon; Introduce selves to local businesses – it's easier to raise funds if the MWC is known.

To Do:

Liz and Sonia will share a spreadsheet for commissioners to sign up according to their interests.



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X. Closing and Takeaways

Commissioners shared their takeaways from the retreat: empowered; motivated; grateful; relief – end and beginning of a new year with focus; optimistic; excited; blank slate – new year.

The June 24, 2025 will be Leslie Belingheri's last meeting as MWC chair. Commissioners thanked Leslie for all her work and leadership. Susannah Mrazek will be stepping down at the end of the fiscal year, June 30, 2025.

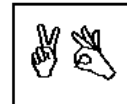
XI. Motion to Adjourn

8:05pm

SM/ER/p

KEY DATES:

Regular Meetings: June 24 Final meeting of the 2024-2025 term



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