

Marin Women's Commission — Regular Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, August 26, 2025 – 6:00pm to 8:00pm
3501 Civic Center Dr., Room 410B, San Rafael, CA 94903

Minutes

- I. Call to Order/Establish Quorum 6:14pm
Present: Sonia Saltzman, Caroline Vance Bruister, Leslie Belingheri, Erika Rosales-Shelfo, Fran Calle La Bou, Carole Simon Mills, Cris Corillo (arrived 6:22pm), Heather McPhail Sridharan (arrived 6:53pm, had been attending event for MWC). Absent: Katie Koyfman (family obligation), Liz Max (work obligation).
- II. Approval of Minutes for June 24, 2025 LB/CVB/p
- III. Approval of Agenda for August 26, 2025 CSM/FCL/p
- IV. Open Time for Members of the Public to Speak on Items not on the Agenda
Jane Spahr, Julie Beach from Marin LGBTQ group.

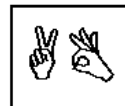
Jane Spahr: After 42 years, the Spahr Center closed. They are now working with the Marin Multicultural Center at the new LGBTQ+ youth program called Q-NEST. They are working with multi racial, gender, and cultural youth. Meetings are taking place in San Geronimo to better serve isolated youth in West Marin where many young people are afraid especially surrounding immigration. The group had 14 events around pride this year. Information was sent out to the schools in Marin County. They are grateful to have allies now. Jane and Julie asked that MWC help amplify their program. MWC can share anything that they can do through Liz Max.

- V. Discussion & Vote: Approval of partnership with Supervisor Brian Colbert for the *Hal Brown Women Who Lead Change Award* - Sonia

Sonia shared the nomination form for the award with the Commissioners. Nominees will be from District 2. This will increase MWC visibility. If approved, MWC will promote, review and help with the ceremony.

Motion to Approve partnership with Supervisor Brian Colbert on the Hal Brown Women Who Lead Change Award. CVB/FCL/p

- VI. Discussion: Planning and updates related to the Marin Teen Girls Conference – Sonia



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Sonia: MWC did not get additional funding for the MTGC this year. MWC is encouraged to seek other sources for funding and to look at other venues that are more affordable. Feedback also included more inclusivity. We would like to continue with the Ambassador program while exploring how to have the conference next year.

Fran: Will girls be willing to be Ambassadors without a conference this year?

Sonia: They will help with the planning for the conference the following year.

Leslie: The Ambassadors can help re-envision the conference. There is still some money left from donations that can be used for the Ambassador Program. Without the extra funding, the conference is unaffordable. Costs, especially the venue, have gone up significantly.

Caroline: What was the feedback from the CRT.

Sonia: Liz may have more feedback. The feedback I know is that CRT and Liz are for all gender inclusivity and for a more accessible venue. We need to discuss that and how it will work.

Sonia: We need to add a discussion and vote on the format and makeup of the Ambassador Program to the next agenda.

VII. Discussion: Review of progress on the ideas & goals spreadsheet -Sonia

Leslie is working with QBR and Shelley Vasquez on the website. Funds were voted on and approved and have been prepaid. Leslie is also interested in maintaining the MWC with YWCA and the Legacy Fund. Sonia and Leslie discussed Shelley supporting the newsletter as well as the website.

Heather attended the League of Women Voters event today and it was very well attended. Heather suggested all commissioners attend next year.

VIII. Discussion: Status of Women in Marin Survey & Research Project – Heather & Cris

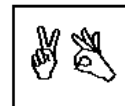
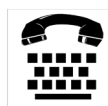
Heather, Caroline and Cris met in July. They are looking to conduct a survey that is similar to the survey done in 2008 and published in 2009.

It's such an asset to have Cris on our team to help and possibly a partnership with Dominican and others.

Heather met with employees from Health and Human Services (HHS) who conduct surveys and strategies at HHS to hear about strategies that were used for HHS surveys. They suggested the first step should be to prepare a letter and meet with Supervisor Mary Sackett. They will help us write a letter with talking points.

Caroline: They also said to specifically ask for money for the survey. It will help the County.

Heather: HHS also shared recent surveys that the County has done to help us with strategy.



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Cris: 2008 was a year dedicated to outreach. A lot won't change but we can add more information. We will study organizations to see if they are still working with women. Our main focus will be research and specific communities. Dominican has collected all the census for the County and may be able to help with that. A lot of people will be needed to collaborate and we will need contractors.

Heather: HHS told us that the County had contractors for their surveys. It's a very specific skill set and that is why it's so important to ask for money.

Leslie: This will be a back to MWC roots research and policy recommendations. Leslie offered to contact former Commissioner Kris Kirby who worked on the 2009 survey. Kris should know if there were contractors.

Cris: We will work on a proposal and time frame for the next meeting.

IX. Update: YWCA and Rising Vanguard – Katie

Sonia: Katie is asking for a delegate from MWC to serve on the Hall of Fame selection committee. Sonia will send an email with more information.

X. Open time for Commissioners + Q & A

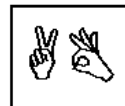
Sonia: MWC has an opening in District 3 and one At-Large opening. Sonia contacted District 3 and they placed the opening in their newsletter.

Leslie: We as commissioners need to recruit as well.

XI. Adjournment

7:23pm

KEY DATES: Special Meeting: October 7, 2025 (September 23, 2025 meeting cancelled).



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