

WOMEN'S RIGHTS COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Virtual Meeting - TEAMS
Tuesday, November 12, 2024
4:00pm

MINUTES

The Women's Rights Commission met virtually at the above date and time.

The following Commissioners were present:	The following Commissioners were absent:
Lisa Turner	Chair- Kathryn Lucero
Maxey Scherr	
Diana Ramirez	
Elisa Morales	
Vice Chair- Sandy Azcona	
Cynthia Retana	
Myndi Luevanos	

AGENDA

Call to order, staff and committee introductions

The meeting was called to order at 4:06 PM.

Attendance was taken by Symone Menchaca, WRC Board Liaison.

1. Discussion and action to approve the Minutes of the Women's Rights Commission Meeting of October 15, 2024.

Motion made by Commissioner Turner, seconded by Commissioner Scherr and unanimously carried to **APPROVE** the meeting minutes of October 15, 2024.

AYES: Commissioners Turner, Scherr, Ramirez, Morales, Azcona, Retana, Luevanos.

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Chairwoman Lucero

2. Notation: District #5 Representative Isabel Salcido has appointed Commissioner Cynthia Alarcon Retana to the Women's Rights Commission.

No Action Taken.

3. Discussion and Action for the Women’s Rights Commission to create or discuss a budget to be able to explore opportunities that align with the commission’s mission, proposed by Commissioner Ramirez.

Legal Attorney to the WRC, Karla Saenz, mentioned the Commission does not have a budget and was not designated one per the originating document of Women’s Rights Commission. The legal attorney’s recommendation is to seek City Council authority by submitting a letter to City Council to alter the WRC Resolution to allow the Women’s Rights Commission a budget.

Discussion was made to generate a proposed list to add to the letter being sent to City Council that would detail key items/ key elements that would exert influence on City Council to change the existing resolution and propose a budget for the Woman’s Rights Commission.

Motion made by Commissioner Scherr, seconded by Commissioner Turner and unanimously carried to **APPROVE** writing a letter requesting to alter the WRC Resolution and allow City Council to create a budget to be submitted to City Council.

AYES: Commissioners Turner, Scherr, Ramirez, Morales, Azcona, Retana, Luevanos.

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Chairwoman Lucero

4. Discussion and action on creating the working group’s focus areas that follow the WRC Strategic Plan, and the Commissioners in each group.

Discussion was made that the working groups/ subgroups of no more than 3

Commissioners would highlight priorities to work on together, per the Strategic Plan, to bring back to the Women’s Rights Commission Board for recommendation, discussion and majority vote. Below is the list of names generated, based on November 2024 meeting and email responses.

Wellness/ Health Focus (Mental Health, Access to Competent & Comprehensive Care)

- Commissioner Lisa Turner
- Commissioner Cindy Retana
- Commissioner Elisa Morales

Equality in the Workplace (Actionable policy to address gender wage disparity in El Paso, Advocate for key policies, Access and key information/ resources)

- Commissioner Vice Chair Sandy Azcona
- Commissioner Diana Ramirez
- Commissioner Cindy Retana

Supportive Environment to Thrive (Overall well-being, Equality, Safety and Justice)

- Commissioner Lisa Turner

- **Commissioner Maxey Scherr**
- **Commissioner Myndi Luevanos**

Motion made by Commissioner Retana, seconded by Commissioner Luevanos and carried to **APPROVE** the division of the Focus Areas by subgroups between the 9 Commissioners to allow up to 3 Commissioners per group.

AYES: Commissioner Scherr, Ramirez, Morales, Azcona, Retana, Luevanos.

NAYS: Commissioner Turner

ABSENT: Chairwoman Lucero

5. Discussion and action on the timeline in which each working group member meets to discuss a focus area, as well as how the information would be shared with all the Commission Board Members.

Discussion made that each subgroup share any updates as to what each group has worked on, as a standing item placed on each agenda. The update would allow the WRC Board to know what each subgroup has worked on, as well as the subgroups to receive input from the entire Board. This would allow opportunity for the Commissioners who are not closely involved to still participate in any given Focus Area of the Strategic Plan.

Motion made by Commissioner Luevanos, seconded by Commissioner Turner, and unanimously carried to **APPROVE** the standing order for each subgroup to give monthly updates to the Commission.

AYES: Commissioners Turner, Scherr, Ramirez, Morales, Azcona, Retana, Luevanos

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Chairwoman Lucero

6. Discussion and action on the proposed 2025 meeting schedule of the Women's Rights Commission, to include in-person meetings, proposed by Commissioner Morales.

Discussion made to continue to meet every third Tuesday on a monthly basis, both in person and virtually, with a goal of meeting three times a year in-person. If in-person quorum is not met, and if there is ample time, the Board may still meet virtually if there are 5 Commissioners online to meet a quorum.

Motion made by Commissioner Scherr, seconded by Commissioner Turner, and unanimously carried to **APPROVE** the 2025 WRC Meeting Schedule to include 3 dates of in-person meetings with the option to make the meetings virtual if notified with enough time.

AYES: Commissioners Turner, Scherr, Ramirez, Morales, Azcona, Retana, Luevanos

NAYS: None
ABSENT: Chairwoman Lucero

7. Discussion and action on the priorities of the Commission with the addition of new board members, proposed by Commissioner Morales.

Motion made by Commissioner Morales, seconded by Commissioner Luevanos, and carried to **APPROVE** to withdraw Discussion and action item #7.

AYES: Commissioners Scherr, Ramirez, Morales, Azcona, Retana, Luevanos
NAYS: Commissioner Turner
ABSENT: Chairwoman Lucero

Adjournment

Motion made by Commissioner Turner, seconded by Commissioner Morales and the motion unanimously carried to **APPROVE** the adjournment of the WRC meeting.
AYES: Commissioners Turner, Scherr, Ramirez, Morales, Azcona, Retana, Luevanos
NAYS: None
ABSENT: Chairwoman Lucero

Meeting adjourned at 5:45 pm.