

CITY OF FORT COLLINS

MEMORANDUM

Date: August 18, 1987

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of City Council
Steven C. Burkett, City Manager

Thru: Pete Dallow, Administrative Services Director *PD*

From: Wendy Williams, Women's Commission Staff *Wendy*

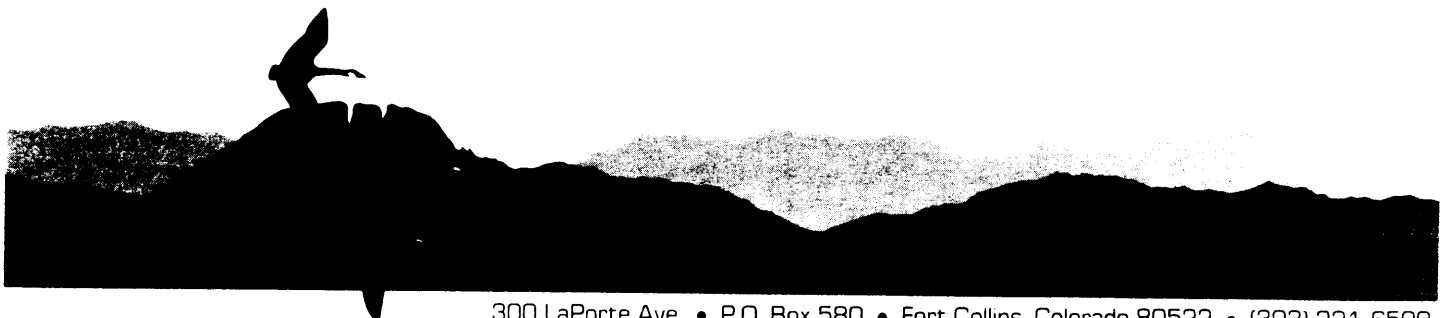
Re: Commission on the Status of Women 1987-1988 Work Plan

Attached is the work plan proposed by the Commission on the Status of Women. The Commission would be happy to respond to any questions Council might have. Unless Council directs otherwise the Commission will proceed as outlined in their memorandum. Upon approval, City administration will provide the funding necessary to accomplish the Commission's work plan.

Staff support is currently being provided by the Employee Development Department. The recommended budget provides for continued staff support.

PD/WW/rlo

cc: Michael W. Powers, Employee Development Director



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M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council Members

FROM: Commission on the Status of Women

DATE: August 18, 1987

RE: Proposed 1987 - 1988 Work Plan

On April 1, 1986 City Council Resolution 86-65 created the Commission on the Status of Women. The Commission was established in response to a recommendation made by the Fort Collins Task Force on Women's Issues and endorsed by the Human Relations Commission. This memorandum summarizes the Commission's activities to date and outlines our proposed work plan for 1987-1988.

BACKGROUND

The Commission on the Status of Women was created "for the purpose of enhancing the status of, and opportunities for all women in Fort Collins". To that end, the Commission was empowered by City Council (Resolution 86-65) to:

- 1) document issues of importance to the status of women in Fort Collins.
- 2) review legislation which will affect women in the community.
- 3) conduct educational programs in the Fort Collins community to increase public awareness and sensitivity to the needs and capabilities of all women.
- 4) cooperate with other organizations and individuals interested in issues affecting women in the Fort Collins area.
- 5) recommend legislation, policy changes, and other actions which would enhance the status of women in Fort Collins to the City Council, City Manager, and to other public and private organizations upon request.

GOALS

The Commission studied the report submitted by the Task Force on Women's Issues prior to holding a goal setting session in October, 1986. The session focused on a discussion of what the Fort Collins community might be like for women in 25 years, in 10 years, and in 2-5 years, and the role that the Commission might play at that time. The following were included in the list of activities members saw the Commission being involved in during the 2-5 year category:

- Prioritizing Task Force recommendations
- Educating the community about women's issues and needs
- Serving as an information resource
- Challenging traditional philosophies
- Working with the City on economic development issues
- Fostering a cooperative relationship with the schools, business, and the press
- Creating a parenting program at the Public Library
- Encouraging after-school programs

COMMITTEES

Having identified short and long term goals and objectives, the Commission formed 4 committees to further these goals and implement Task Force recommendations: a basic human needs committee, an economic issues committee, an education committee, and a networking committee. Since the establishment of the original committees, the Commission was increased from 7 members and 2 alternates to 11 members and 2 alternates. The education committee and networking committees have subsequently been merged to form a community outreach committee. A legal government committee has also been formed. Commission members are currently in the process of selecting committees.

Basic Human Needs Committee

The basic needs committee selected child care and low income housing as the first areas of focus. The committee has been researching the services that are currently available.

The basic needs committee has also been working with the Fort Collins Public Library and the Women's Center to establish a Womens Resource Collection at the Public Library. Work has been progressing on the Collection, which has been identified by the Commission as a primary goal for 1987-1988.

Economic Committee

In October, 1986, the Commission sponsored a community forum on economic issues. The forum provided residents with an opportunity to voice concerns and share ideas about the present and future state of the Fort Collins economy. The economic committee summarized the information in a report for City Council. The report included recommendations which supported, complimented, and extended those of the Task Force on Economic Development.

The economic committee submitted recommendations to the Economic Development Division as to the types of information to be included in the data base. The Commission also made recommendations related to the Economic Opportunities Fund.

The Commission has also been involved in economic development at the state level. The economic committee took part in a workshop sponsored by the Colorado Foundation for Women, designed to assess women's needs throughout the state. Senator Ezzard and Representative Reeves requested and received input from the Commission on economic issues affecting women. Commission members also attended the annual seminar held by the National Association of Commissions on Women.

Education Committee

The education committee sponsored and promoted two educational workshops; "Getting Appointed to Boards & Commission", and "Crime Prevention Information for Women". The committee also took the lead in the 1986 celebration of Women's History Month. Activities included an exhibit "Honoring Generations of Compassion, Courage and Conviction" displayed at the Public Library, and a program entitled "Conversations in Women's History".

Networking Committee

The networking committee has been working on compiling a comprehensive and up-to-date mailing list. Contacts have been made with several local women's groups, including the CSU Office of Women's Programs and Women's Studies, the Fort Collins Children's Care Coalition, and Changing Woman magazine.

The Commission invited the Task Force on Womens Issues to a potluck dinner to learn about the discussion and decisions that framed the recommendations contained in their report.

The networking committee investigated the possibility of a Commission newsletter, but decided instead on an informational brochure.

WORK PLAN

The Commission has selected four major projects for 1987-1988: creation of a Women's Resource Collection at the Public Library, an expanded observance and celebration of Women's History Month, design of a Commission brochure, and use of video and cable to educate and inform the community. Each project addresses a community need identified by the Task Force on Women's Issues.

Women's Resource Center

Task Force Recommendation #16: "We recommend that the City Council direct the Public Library to create a comprehensive resource and referral center for women ...(to) include information on educational and training programs, jobs, health care services, emergency services, legal information, parenting resources, and sources of financial assistance."

Work has begun to establish a Women's Resource Center at the Public Library. The Center will consist of books and other written materials dealing with subjects of importance to women, such as parenting, childcare, employment, health, education, and legal rights. The Collection will provide information well as centralize and coordinate the informational activities of other local organizations and agencies. The materials will be purchased with funds supplied by a Gannett Foundation grant awarded the Women's Center, the June Friedman Memorial, and the Public Library. Money will also be used to catalog the materials and print a Collection Brochure. The Collection will be unveiled on March 8, 1988 (International Women's Day) with a special program and reception at the Public Library.

Women's History Month Observance

In order to increase awareness in the community and in the schools of the contributions women have made to the shaping of local and national history, the Commission will continue to be involved in local programs commemorating National Women's History Month. Although the Commission will again take the lead in promoting community awareness and participation in this celebration, other groups will be encouraged to actively participate and spearhead future commemorations. The Commission's goal for Women's History Month is that it will become an annual event, bringing the women of Fort Collins together to celebrate past accomplishments and educate the community about potentials for the future. Poudre R-1 and CSU will be encouraged to participate in programs designed to increase recognition in the school system of women's achievements. Activities might include exhibits, a "Write Women Back into History" contest in the public schools, and a "Women Making Local History-Conversations With Local Women" program.

Commission Brochure

The Commission will design an informational brochure for community distribution. The brochure will contain resource information as well as information about the Commission's purpose and activities.

Video Programs

Task Force Recommendation #50: "We recommend that the City Council direct City departments to use cable television...for women's health education outreach...in cooperation with the City's Information and Communication Systems Department."

The Commission will continue to sponsor educational programs to increase public awareness and sensitivity to the needs and capabilities of women. The Commission has identified video and cable TV as a viable medium for disbursing information of importance to the community. The Commission will therefore research existing videos, encourage local groups to produce programs which address key issues in women's lives, and recommend to the City that such programs be shown on City Cable 27.

We are pleased with our accomplishments to date and excited about the work plan contained herein. Progress has been made on several of the recommendations made by the Task Force. (See attachment.) We feel that our work plan will future the goals identified by the Task Force on Women's Issues and City Council.

cc: Steven C. Burkett, City Manager
Michael W. Powers, Employee Development Director

CITY OF FORT COLLINS

OFFICE OF EMPLOYEE DEVELOPMENT

MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of City Council

FROM: Debbie Sagen, Organizational Analyst *DS*

DATE: September 22, 1986

RE: Status of Recommendations from the Task Force on Women's Issues

In the past eight months, several of the recommendations made by the Task Force on Women's Issues have been addressed. The following summarizes the action taken to date and outlines the activities of the Commission on the Status of Women.

Commendations from the Council

Recommendation numbers: 39, 41, 44, 55, 61, C10, C12, 62

Several of the recommendations from the Task Force to the City Council requested that commendations be sent to agencies which had been particularly sensitive in addressing the needs of women in the community. All of these commendations were sent from the Mayor in April. I have received a great deal of positive feedback from the organizations which received commendations.

Action Taken by the City

Recommendation numbers: 5, 16, 20, 29

The following recommendations have been addressed in some fashion by the City.

Recommendation 5 This recommendation requests that the Purchasing division hold seminars for women business owners in order to become familiar with the City's vendor selection process. The division held such a seminar this past June. Purchasing agents from CSU, Larimer County and other public sector agencies were available to answer questions about their operations. The session was attended by approximately 50 women business owners.

Recommendation 16 The Fort Collins Public Library was requested to begin a resource and referral "network" for women. While work on this project has not begun, Library staff did respond to this recommendation by holding a series on a variety of women's issues. The eight week session was held this summer, and was attended by more than 300 individuals.

Recommendation 20 The Council was encouraged to continue support for the Housing Authority in this recommendation. Council authorized more than \$200,000 in Community Development Block Grant monies for the Housing Authority for 1986-87.

Recommendation 29 This recommendation directed the City to find a child care resource and referral service for City employees' child care. The Employee Development Department responded to recommendation 29 by making copies of the Women's Center's child care resource directory available to all employees.

Recommendation 30 The Task Force requested that a City employee attend the regular meetings of the Children's Care Coalition and give summary reports of those meetings to the City Council. A staff member was appointed in June of this year; the Coalition did not meet over the summer months, so reports to the City Council have been unnecessary.

Recommendations from the Economic Development Task Force

These recommendations were made by the Task Force on Women's Issues as well as the Economic Development Task Force.

Recommendation 8 This recommendation calls for a labor market survey to be conducted by the City as needed. The Economic Development Task Force's recommendation 3 requests that the City establish and maintain a database for economic development purposes. The two recommendations could easily be combined.

Recommendations 21 22 24 Recommendations 21 and 22 concern the donation of City-owned land, long-term lease of land, and waiver of development fees for Housing Authority sponsored construction. These two recommendations are reiterated by the Economic Development Task Force in their recommendation 11. Recommendation 24 requests that the Council support programs like Project Self-Sufficiency, a housing project which also provides job counseling and training to people in transition in the work force. The Economic Development group requested similar assistance from the Council in recommendation 11.

Commission on the Status of Women

The Commission members were appointed in June of this year, and held their first meeting in late July. This first meeting served to orient the members about their responsibilities as board members. Because most of the

members had never met, the group held an informal retreat in early August. At their early September meeting the members appointed officers. They are:

Chair: Cherie Scricca
Vice Chair: Cindy Hoff
Secretary: position rotates each month

The group is now discussing methods for commenting to the Council about the Economic Development Task Force's recently completed report. The Commission's goal setting retreat has been scheduled for October 20; after this session the group will be reporting its goals and work plan to Council.