

**Pima County/Tucson Women's Commission
Women's Issues Committee Meeting
Wednesday, September 24, 2008**

Adopted Minutes

Committee members present: Gypsy Lyle, chair, Barbara Clarihew, Kaitlin Meadows, Suela Mustafa, Michele Roland-Schwartz

Committee members absent: none

Guests: GLBT Commission members: John Peter Wilhite and Pam Liberty

Staff present: VISTA members Briana Dorrenbacher and Stephanie Smith

- 1) **Call to order:** 5:36 p.m. by Chair Lyle
- 2) **Agenda review:** No changes
- 3) **Call to public:** None
- 4) **Announcements:** None
- 5) **Review Minutes of August 13, 2008:** Motion made to approve by B. Clarihew and seconded by G. Lyle. Approved 5-0 as written.
- 6) **Ongoing Business:**
 - a) **Discussion with GLBT Commission regarding Tucson Fire Department hiring process:** Chair G. Lyle reported that she will be representing the PCTWC at the Community Partners Stakeholder Meeting with the City of Tucson scheduled for Monday, September 29, 2008. GLBT Commissioner John Peter Wilhite will also attend the meeting to monitor the candidates' responses to our crafted questions regarding the applicant's experience and intention related to concerns both commissions have raised. City Of Tucson Human Relations representative Suzanne Machain has notified us that our questions have been received and will be asked of the candidates at the September 29, 2008 meeting. Several Women's Issues Committee members shared their disappointment that a local candidate widely respected and especially attentive to concerns we've raised has already been eliminated from consideration. Four finalists have been announced and final selection is scheduled to occur over the next several months. Specific plans for our collaborative strategy on staying vigilant and keeping our appointers and others informed include:
 - Chair Lyle will query the City of Tucson on the nature of the September 29th meeting: specifics related to the process on that day, permission to add VISTA member Stephanie Smith as a guest observer, and clarification on the time line for the announcement of the new Chief.
 - J. Wilhite will help create a "talking points" template for future discussions with Mayor and Council when we are ready to advocate for a finalist we believe best addresses our concerns.
 - P. Liberty will query members of the Tucson Fire Department, Women in Fire Service, and other allies about who they recommend after their meetings with the candidates.
 - Commissioners will do extensive internet and phone research on each candidate to compile background material for helping inform our decision about the most qualified candidate.

- PCTWC and GLBT representatives will join forces to share information and be prepared for possible press interviews at that evening's meeting with Major and Council.
- All PCTWC Commissioners will be asked to meet with their appointers with our recommendations for the next Tucson Fire Department Chief.

7) **Adjourn:** Motion made by B. Clarihew, seconded by G. Lyle, and unanimously 5-0 to adjourn at 6:55 p.m.

The next Women's Issues meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 8, 2008 at 5:30 p.m.