Commission on Women’s Issues
Minutes of Meeting held on August 2, 2017
Meeting started at approximately 6:35pm
Facilitated by Kimberly Zouzoua

1) The meeting opened by all Commissioners introducing ourselves and giving some background on what we do and what we are passionate about as relates to women’s issues. We had guests at the meeting, Councilor Shayna Barnes and Councilor Shirley Asack. They welcomed us all mentioned how excited and happy they are that things have begun for the Commission on Women’s Issues.

2) We elected officers for the Commission: Kimberly Zouzoua, Chair; Nichole Gatling, Vice Chair; and Leona Martin, Secretary.

3) Andrea Burton was our guest presenter and we reviewed our Mission Statement. We will work on issues that affect women but will go out to everyone and benefit all city residents. Part of our charge will be to design programs for women in the City of Brockton.

4) Andrea informed us that we are connected to the state Commission and the National platform as well so we are connected on a local, federal and international levels. The Mission Statement is fluid so we can add to it as we see fit.

5) Our meetings will be held on the first Wednesday of every month at 6:30pm with the next meeting being September 6, 2017.

6) We also discussed that the Secretary is responsible for the minutes of the meetings and setting up the agenda in collaboration with the Chair and Vice Chair. The Commission has a budget of $1500. We can use it however we want to spend it. Funds would need to be requested through the city budget and the Secretary would need to keep good recordkeeping to track our funds. Andrea would be our liaison.

7) Kimberly asked about whether it was okay to for the Officers to meet before our formal meetings and it is okay as long as we not voting and/or making decisions on behalf of the Commission. This is incorrect information, please refer to Open Meeting Law Guide on Page 3.

8) Councilor Shirley Asack mentioned that the minutes, dates and agendas should be posted 48 hours prior to meetings. Schedule should go up on city website with a link.
brocktonwomenscommission@cobma.us
9) It was suggested that we get name plates, Andrea volunteered to make some up for us to use at our meetings.

10) Kimberly, our new Chair asked that we go around the table and have commissioners speak about things they are passionate about and would like to see us work on. Andrea mentioned that there could be things that other organizations and/or agencies are working on with similar interests and we could possibly collaborate with them.

11) Some of the ideas were the following:

  1) Parents Rights and Special Education advocacy for families
  2) Job Readiness for the community, interviewing skills, resume writing skills etc. It was mentioned that Career Works is already doing these types of things
  3) Help and support for women who are incarcerated
  4) Positive images in Brockton, what policies can we change impacting women in a positive light
  5) Outreach ministry via the churches, practice acts of love and kindness
  6) Want to see more done about sex trafficking via a trauma sensitive approach. Things happening in the streets that we can work with Nicole Anderson Pierce, a Brockton Police Officer
  7) It was also mentioned that we could connect with Elisa Fontes, a community outreach Officer
  8) Brockton has lots of unused buildings and there are lots of people that need housing. The need is now. How can we impact people with disabilities that are homeless, need healthcare
  9) Women veterans we mentioned but said we could talk more at a later date
  10) Women’s Health

12) We discussed that we would address each other as “Commissioner”. We also discussed how we could/would email minutes, Councilor Shayna Barnes said there are rules about how this should get done.

The meeting adjourned at 8:06pm. It was properly moved and 2nd to do so.
Minutes respectively submitted by Leona Martin, Secretary