

**MINUTES
COUNTY OF SONOMA
COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS – REGULAR MEETING**

Tuesday, April 26, 2022

5:30PM

Virtual

Commissioners Present:

First District: Howard Sapper (Officer-at-Large), Kathleen Finigan, Omar Paz Jr.

Second District: Elizabeth Escalante (Vice Chair)

Third District: Katrina Phillips (Chair), Ana Horta

Fourth District: Paulina Lopez*

Staff: Meira Bowcut, Admin Aide

Commissioners Absent:

Second District: Iliana Madrigal

Third District: Isabel Lopez

Fourth District: Rosa Reynoza

Fifth District: Lyndsey Burcina (Officer-at-Large)

*Commissioner Paulina Lopez arrived at approximately 5:40PM.

Meeting held through publicly available link via Zoom Meeting

I. CALL TO ORDER – MISSION STATEMENT – ROLL CALL – PHILLIPS

Meeting called to order by Chair Phillips at 5:37PM. Chair read the mission statement. Staff took roll call.

II. OPENINGS & APPOINTMENTS – PHILLIPS

The Chair reported three openings –one in the Second District, one in the Fourth District, and two in the Fifth District.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDIZED ITEMS – PHILLIPS

No one addressed the commission.

IV. APPROVAL OF THE MARCH 22, 2022 MINUTES – PHILLIPS

Motion: Commissioner Sapper

Ayes: 6

Noes: 0

Second: Commissioner Finigan

Absent: 4

Abstained: 1

Commissioner Madrigal, Isabel Lopez, Reynoza, and Burcina were absent. Chair Phillips abstained as Chair. Motion passed.

V. REGULAR CALENDAR

Discussion and possible action on items below

1. Presentation from Ramon Meraz with Generation Housing

Mr. Meraz, former commissioner on the Commission on Human Rights spoke about his organization, Generation Housing and invited members to an event on May 19, 2022. He invited members to visit the website www.generationhousing.org Commissioners asked questions regarding the work of generation housing, and recent articles that have been written about the unhoused population in Sonoma County.

2. Presentation from Brian Oh with Sonoma Developmental Center

Brian Oh, Comprehensive Planning Manager from the Permit, Resource, Management Dept. for the County of Sonoma County, presented the Sonoma Developmental Center Specific Plan, based on the three P's of housing, Production, Protection, and Preservation. He described a 40-year plan. They are in the policy formation stage. Community engagement is important to the planners. Open-House type workshops have been conducted, in addition to on-demand broadcast. Focus groups with diverse groups and populations. The planning commission will hold a public hearing on the project sometime in July.

Public Comment: No questions from the public

The Commissioners had various questions specific to the project and the focus groups. The questions involved traffic, community land trust, the target income, affordable housing, low, very low and market rate units, and if a hotel was planned. The commission would like their ad-hoc to be involved. Any further questions to go to Commissioner Paz and he will coordinate getting them to Mr. Oh.

3. Sonoma Valley Unified School District Students with Disabilities Ad-Hoc Update

Commissioner Paz reported on a complaint that was brought to the commission regarding the Sonoma Unified School District's treatment of students with disabilities. He spoke about additional issues. Administration offered to meet, but they have not made an attempt to meet. Commissioner Paz suggested that they:

1. Write a letter of support from the Commission.
 2. The possibility of creating a survey for students, parents, and faculty.
 3. Report of the survey.
 4. Utilizing a poster project that was used in other schools in the past
 5. Creating and disbursing "know your rights" cards for different protected classes.
 6. Potential co-sponsorship for forums for the students and their families.
- Commissioner Paz suggested that the scope of the ad-hoc be expanded.

Motion to establish the SVUSD (Sonoma Valley Unified School District) Students Issues ad-hoc committee with membership composed of commissioners who volunteer, to work with Celeste Winders to take action including, but not limited to, writing a letter of support and concern addressed to the SVUSD Administration and the Board of Trustees regarding issues and inequities faced by special education

2. **Sonoma Valley ad hoc** – Paz reported earlier
3. **Junior Commission Report**- Minimal commissioner support. The Junior Commission has not worked on any project. Suggestion was to pause the Junior Commission and re-evaluate.

VIII. ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NEXT COMMISSION MEETING – PHILLIPS

1. Nominations and elections – next meeting.
2. Communication Committee plan

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:58PM