

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

Tuesday, January 24, 2023

5:30PM

Virtual

Commissioners Present:

First District: Howard Sapper (Officer-at-Large)

Second District: Elizabeth Escalante (Vice Chair), Iliana Madrigal

Third District: Katrina Phillips (Chair), Isabel Lopez, Liz Cruz

Fourth District: Trevor Merrell

Fifth District: Nichole Warwick, Lyndsey Burcina, D'Ayona Jerome

Staff: Meira Bowcut

Commissioners Absent:

Second District: Yensi Jacobo

***Commissioner Escalante arrived late at approximately at 5:45pm**

***Commissioner Jerome arrived late at approximately at 5:55pm**

***Commissioner Escalante left early at approximately at 6:02pm**

***Commissioner Burcina left early at approximately at 6:15pm**

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 5:41 PM. Chair read the mission statement. Roll call was taken by staff.

II. APPROVAL OF THE NOVEMBER 22, 2022 MINUTES – PHILLIPS

Chair asked for a motion to approve the minutes of November 22, 2022

Motion: Chair Phillips

Ayes: 7

Noes: 0

Second: Commissioner Madrigal

Absent: 3

Abstained: 1

Commissioner Jacobo was absent. Commissioner Escalante and Jerome arrived late. Chair Phillips abstained as Chair. Motion passed.

III. OPENINGS & APPOINTMENTS – PHILLIPS

1. Chair Phillips announced two (2) openings in the First District, one (1) opening in the Second District, and two (2) in the Fourth District.
2. Staff performed Commissioner Merrell's oath of office

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDIZED ITEMS- PHILLIPS

The commission had one member of the public speak on non-agendized items.

- Hunter Mills

V. REGULAR CALENDAR

1. Chair Phillips introduced Sonoma County Commission on Human Rights Vice-Chair Elizabeth Escalante as this month's community spotlight. Elizabeth Escalante thanked the Commission for the recognition. She also spoke about the work she does for the community. She will continue to work with the API community to highlight the issues that they face. Chair Phillips will bring forth Elizabeth Escalante's Resolution next meeting. No action was taken.
2. Chair Phillips announced that Vice Chair Escalante will not be reappointed by her supervisor. Chair Phillips reminded that in the bylaws it states that "each Commissioner acts as a liaison between the Commission and his/her appointing Supervisor, and thus is expected to communicate regularly with his/her appointing Supervisor about the Commission's activities." She encouraged to build a rapport with their appointed Supervisor and recommended to meet with their Supervisor once a month.

Public Comment

- Atila

3. Discussion and approval of the budget distribution. \$500 will go back to the general fund using the Pride Committee Ad Hoc's budget and the Visibility Project will contribute \$600 and the Jr Commission Project will contribute \$400 to the Indigenous People Ad Hoc for a total of \$1,000.

No Public Comment

Motion to redistribute the funding:

\$500 Pride Ad Hoc to General Fund

\$600 Visibility Project and \$400 Jr. Commission Project to Indigenous People Ad Hoc

Motion: Commissioner Sapper

Ayes: 7

Noes: 0

Second: Commissioner Warwick

Absent: 3

Abstained: 1

Commissioner Jacobo was absent. Commissioner Escalante and Burcina left early. Chair Phillips abstained as Chair. Motion passed.

4. Commissioner Lopez read the Indigenous People Ad Hoc work plan and proposed budget. The budget was revised from \$1,500 to \$1,000.

No Public Comment

Noes:0

Abstained: 1

Commissioner Jacobo was absent. Commissioner Escalante and Burcina left early. Chair Phillips abstained as Chair. Motion passed.

5. CHR Biennial Report was not mentioned during the meeting.

VI. OFFICER REPORTS AND ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATES

Officers and Staff to discuss administrative-related matters including, but not limited to, field trip ideas and speaker coordination.

1. Commissioner Sapper provided an update on the SDC. There are a couple of lawsuits that will hold up the development of the center. There's a proposal for low-income housing for the 600 acres.
2. Commissioner Escalante left early and didn't provide a Lunar Year update.
3. Staff reviewed the updated Brown Act Teleconferencing Policy that takes place March 1, 2023.

VII. AD HOC COMMITTEE AND PROJECT COMMITTEE UPDATES

- 1.Outreach & Communication Ad Hoc Committee is very involved with the Palm's Inn and the murder of William Woodard. Chair Phillips attended the funeral with D'mitra Smith.
- 2.Immigrants' Rights Ad Hoc didn't report out
- 3.Indigenous People Ad Hoc didn't report out
- 4.Junior Commission on Human Rights reported out that Commissioner Cruz is helping with the Jr. Commission. The Jr. Commissioners would like to present next month on their work. Recruitment started for the next cohort.
- 5.LGBTQIA+ Ad Hoc Committee met with Hunter Mills with Wake Up Sonoma.
- 6.People with Disabilities Ad Hoc Committee didn't report out
- 7.Visibility Project reported no new data, but is partnering up with the Jr. Commission to spread the word.
8. Commissioner Warwick reported out on the Human Trafficking event in Rohnert Park.

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

1. Jr Commissioner Project Presentation
2. Resolution for Vice-Chair Escalante
3. Inter-Tribal Council Community Spotlight

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:52 p.m.