

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

Tuesday, May 25, 2023

5:30PM

Virtual

Commissioners Present:

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

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

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

Fifth District: Nichole Warwick

Staff: Meira Bowcut

Commissioners Absent:

Fourth District: Trevor Merrell

Fifth District: Lyndsey Burcina

***Commissioner Cruz Reyes arrived late at approximately at 5:41pm.**

Meeting held virtually and in person

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

Meeting called to order by Chair Phillips at 5:31 PM. Chair Phillips read the mission statement. Roll call was taken by staff.

II. APPROVAL OF THE APRIL 25, 2023 MINUTES – PHILLIPS

Chair Phillips asked for a motion to approve the minutes of April 25, 2023

No Public Comment

Motion: Commissioner Sapper

Ayes: 6

Noes: 0

Second: Commissioner Madrigal

Absent:3

Abstained: 1

Commissioner Burcina and Merrell were absent. Commissioner Cruz Reyes arrived late. Chair Phillips abstained as Chair. Motion passed.

III. OPENINGS & APPOINTMENTS – PHILLIPS

1. Chair Phillips announced two (2) openings in the First District, two (2) opening in the Second District, two (2) in the Fourth District, and one (1) in the Fifth District.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDIZED ITEMS- PHILLIPS

Public Comment:

- Attila Nagy

V. REGULAR CALENDAR

1. The Jr Commission presented on their unhoused population project. The project consisted of reaching out to organizations that help the homeless, gathering information, finding solutions, and they presented those findings to the BOS. The main take way from the information is that food is accounted for, weather is a concerned, and quality of living can improve with bedding. After the presentation some Commissioners thanked the Jr. Commissioners for their work on their project.

2. Nichole Warwick presented on the research of pesticides in Graton, California- Graton Pesticides (Grape) Research Project Results 2023. The presentation provided a depth analysis of data from their research in the city of Graton. The findings showed that there were no pesticides detected that exceed drinking water or health advisory levels. Estrogenic activity was observed at two sites. No action was taken due to already having the support of the BOS on Bill 99.

3. Chair Phillips reminded Commissioners to participate and to respond to emails promptly.

4. Chair Phillips led the discussion on the Kathleen Finigan Award. This award will be given to an individual from the community who works with the unsheltered community. Kathy King, Annie Falanders and Elizabeth Quiroz were nominated for this award. Chair Phillips will take more nominations via email. Voting will take place during June's monthly meeting and the award ceremony will be in July's monthly meeting.

5. Nominations and Elections

Chair Phillips read the qualifications and descriptions of the Officer roles.

Chair: Commissioner Sapper nominated Commissioner Phillips as Chair; Phillips accepted.

Vice Chair: Commissioner Madrigal nominated Commissioner Escalante; Escalante accepted.

Officer-At-Large: Commissioner Phillips nominated Commissioner Warwick; Warwick accepted.

Officer-At-Large: Commissioner Phillips nominated Commissioner Sapper; Sapper accepted.

Motion to close nominations and approve the slate of officers.

Public Comment:

- Attila Nagy

Motion: Commissioner Cruz Reyes

Ayes: 7

Noes: 0

Second: Commissioner Lopez

Absent:2

Abstained: 1

Commissioner Burcina and Merrell were absent. Chair Phillips abstained as Chair. Motion passed.

6. Chair Phillips led the discussion for the strategic planning meeting. Commissioners agreed on being it during their monthly meeting on June 27th at 5:00pm at the HR Large Training Room. Staff went over the logistics of the strategic planning 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. Chair Phillips reminded everyone about Sonoma County Pride Parade on June 3, 2023. Commissioner Cruz Reyes, Vice Chair Escalante and Chair Phillips will be there. More volunteers are needed. The Wednesday Night Market is on June 21, 2023.
2. Commissioner Sapper reported on his attendance to the BOS meeting on May 16th regarding the Anti-Semitism Resolution.
3. Staff reminded that Invoices and reimbursements are due June 9th. She also reminded everyone that on June 6th at 1:30 the Pride Resolution will be presented to the Board of Supervisors.

VII. AD HOC COMMITTEE AND PROJECT COMMITTEE UPDATES

1. Outreach & Communication Ad Hoc Committee didn't have anything new to report.
2. Immigrants' Rights Ad Hoc didn't have anything new to report.
3. Indigenous People Ad Hoc is brainstorming for next years work plan. Perhaps creating a Land Acknowledgment. Staff will reach out to Marissa Montenegro to see if she can meet with the ad hoc.
4. Junior Commission on Human Rights reported that they are interviewing applicants and trying to select by showing representation in all districts. They had about 27 applicants.
5. LGBTQIA+ Ad Hoc Committee didn't have anything new to report.
6. People with Disabilities Ad Hoc Committee didn't have anything new to report.
7. Visibility Project is working on boosting the questionnaire on Instagram and Facebook. Commissioner Madrigal will work with Chair Phillips on boosting the project.

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

1. Rebekah Schmitt with Sage Casey Foundation for Community Spotlight
2. Proclamation from Santa Rosa for Health Care For All Single Payer
3. Strategic Planning for June

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.