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

Tuesday, July 25, 2023 5:30PM Hybrid

**Commissioners Present:** 

First District: Howard Sapper (Officer-at-Large)\*, Elizabeth Escalante (Vice Chair),

Second District: Yensi Jacobo, Iliana Madrigal

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

Fifth District: Lyndsey Burcina, Nichole Warwick

**Staff:** Meira Bowcut

Commissioners Absent:
First District: Sarah Kerlow
Fourth District: Trevor Merrell

# Meeting held virtually and in person

## I. CALL TO ORDER - MISSION STATEMENT - ROLL CALL - PHILLIPS

Meeting called to order by Chair Phillips at 5:40 PM. Chair Phillips read the mission statement. Roll call was taken by staff.

### II. APPROVAL OF THE JUNE 27, 2023 MINUTES – PHILLIPS

Chair Phillips asked for a motion to approve the minutes of June 27, 2023.

No Public Comment

Motion: Commissioner Warwick Ayes: 6 Noes: 0
Second: Commissioner Madrigal Absent: 4 Abstained: 1

Commissioner Merrell and Kerlow were absent. Commissioner Sapper and Cruz Reyes arrived

late. Chair Phillips abstained as Chair. Motion passed.

### III. OPENINGS & APPOINTMENTS – PHILLIPS

1. Chair Phillips announced 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

<sup>\*</sup>Commissioner Cruz Reyes arrived late at approximately at 5:52pm.

<sup>\*</sup>Commissioner Sapper arrived late at approximately at 6:26pm and attended via Zoom (AB 2449 Excuse).

No Public Comment.

### V. 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. Vice Chair Escalante reported on a series of seminar Building Alliances, happening in the Fall regarding discussions on Antisemitism and Asian American history in Sonoma County held by Shomrei in Bennett Valley.
- 2. Commissioner Warwick reported on a situation that happened at Analy High School in the West Sonoma County School District in the publication of the yearbook. Transgender students' birth names were published instead of their chosen names. This is a Title 9 and Title 6 violation. Commissioner Warwick is investigating this case further to propose an action item from the Commission.

#### VI. REGULAR CALENDAR

1. Chair Phillips presented the Kathleen Finigan Award to Heather Jackson from Acts of Kindness. Heather Jackson was once homeless herself and now helps feed the unhoused in Sonoma County and treats individuals as family.

#### **Public Comment:**

- Elaine Holtz
- Attila Nagy
- Carl T.
- Chair Phillips read the Proclamation for Health Care for All. Many voiced their support for the proclamation and recommended to reach out to the Governor of California. Motion to pass the proclamation.

#### Public Comment:

- Attila Nagy
- Susanne Lemont
- Elaine Holtz

Motion: Commissioner Madrigal Ayes: 7 Noes: 0
Second: Commissioner Burcina Absent: 3 Abstained: 1
Commissioner Merrell and Kerlow were absent. Commissioner Sapper arrived late.
Chair Phillips abstained as Chair. Motion passed.

3. Commissioner Madrigal proposed the opportunity for the Commission to table at the Community Health Fair hosted by Petaluma Blacks for Community Development, City of Petaluma and other organizations. Motion to pay up to \$100 to table at the event.

No Public Comment.

Motion: Commissioner Warwick Ayes: 8 Noes: 0

Second: Commissioner Lopez Absent: Abstained: 1
Commissioner Merrell and Kerlow were absent. Chair Phillips abstained as Chair.
Motion passed.

- 4. Chair Phillips led the phase two of the strategic planning. Commissioners presented on different work plans.
  - a. Commissioner Madrigal presented on the 2023-2024 Visibility Project and proposed to continue advertising the survey on social media and later create a report on the compiled data. A QR Code option will be added to the Visibility Project flyers to give the public another option to access the survey. Members of this project are Commissioner Madrigal as Chair, Commissioner Phillips, Commissioner Cruz Reyes, Commissioner Sapper, and Commissioner Warwick. Budget of \$2,235 was requested. Commissioner Lopez recommended to increase the budget by \$50 for printing materials for tabling. Motion to approve the work plan and budget of \$2,285.

No Public Comment.

Motion: Commissioner Cruz Reyes Ayes: 8 Noes: 0
Second: Commissioner Sapper Absent: 2 Abstained: 1
Commissioner Merrell and Kerlow were absent. Chair Phillips abstained as Chair. Motion passed.

b. Commissioner Lopez presented on the Just Migration Reform Ad Hoc 2023-2024. This ad hoc proposed to financially support the 40-miles march happening August 5-7, 2023 from Petaluma to the Federal Building in San Francisco and continue being a representative and support the activities of the NCCJIR. A budget of \$4,000 was requested, however the amount decreased to \$2,500 due to the overall funding. The swag was removed. This funding will pay for sponsorship and the promotional video. Members of the ad hoc includes Commissioner Lopez as Chair and Commissioner Escalante. Motion to approve the workplan and budget of \$2,500.

No Public Comment.

Motion: Commissioner Madrigal Ayes: 8 Noes: 0
Second: Commissioner Burcina Absent: 2 Abstained: 1
Commissioner Merrell and Kerlow were absent. Chair Phillips abstained as Chair. Motion passed.

c. Commissioner Cruz Reyes and Jacobo presented on the Youth Commission 2023-2024. They reviewed the proposed budget and timeline of the project. The requested budget was \$8,935. There was a long discussion on the budget for food expense. They will explore different options regarding food for the youth commissioners. The Commissioners adjusted their requested budget to \$4,635. The project co-managers are Commissioner Cruz Reyes and Commissioner Jacobo. Motion to approve the workplan and budget of

\$4,635, but with an option to revisit the budget in the future.

No Public Comment.

Motion: Commissioner Madrigal Ayes: 8 Noes: 0
Second: Commissioner Burcina Absent: 2 Abstained: 1
Commissioner Merrell and Kerlow were absent. Chair Phillips abstained as

Chair. Motion passed.

d. Chair Phillips presented the Adult LGBTQIA+ Prom, an event for the Community to attend a prom. They will partner with other organizations to cover cost. The cost to attend the event is \$40 per person and left-over money raised will be donated to Positive Images, the Sage Casey Foundation and Community Matters. Along with hosting the adult prom, this ad hoc will table at Sonoma County Pride and create a survey around how LGBTQIA+ community is experiencing life in Sonoma County. The data will then be presented to the Board of Supervisors and the Community. Commissioner Burcina and Commissioner Phillips are members of the ad hoc. The Budget requested was \$2,300. Due to the budget, the amount requested got reduced to \$2,000. Motion to approve the work plan and budget of \$2,000.

No Public Comment.

Motion: Commissioner Warwick Ayes: 8 Noes: 0
Second: Commissioner Madrigal Absent: 2 Abstained: 1
Commissioner Merrell and Kerlow were absent. Chair Phillips abstained as Chair. Motion passed.

e. Sonoma Collective Care Response Team was postponed to next meeting due to Commissioner Kerlow's absence.

# VII. ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NEXT COMMISSION MEETING — PHILLIPS None were mentioned.

#### VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.