

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

Tuesday, May 28, 2024

5:30PM

Hybrid

Commissioners Present:

First District: Howard Sapper (Officer-at-Large), Sarah Kerlow, Maria Barakat

Second District: Andrew Lemarquand*, Sadie Ferguson*

Third District: Katrina Phillips (Chair), Isabel Lopez

Fourth District: Trevor Merrell**, Irmina Benson, Cecilia Sofranko

Staff: Meira Bowcut

Commissioners Absent:

Third District: Liz Cruz Reyes

Fifth District: Nichole Warwick (Vice Chair)

***Commissioners Lemarquand and Ferguson attended via Zoom per Gov't. Code Section 54953(b) at this location: 1094 Petaluma Blvd S, Petaluma, CA 94952.**

****Commissioner Merrell arrived at approximately 5:55pm**

Meeting held virtually and in person.

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

Meeting called to order by Chair Phillips at 5:32PM. Chair Phillips read the mission statement. Roll call taken by Staff.

II. COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT– PHILLIPS

This month's community spotlight got postponed due to Rabbi Steve Finely's personal emergency.

III. APPROVAL OF THE APRIL 23, 2024 MINUTES – PHILLIPS

No Discussion. Motion to approve the April 23, 2024 Minutes.

No Public Comment.

Motion: Commissioner Sapper

Ayes: 6

Noes: 0

Second: Commissioner Benson

Absent: 3

Abstained: 3

Commissioners Cruz Reyes and Warwick were absent. Commissioner Merrell arrived late. Commissioners Barakat and Sofranko abstained as new Commissioners. Chair Phillips abstained as Chair. Motion passed.

IV. OPENINGS & APPOINTMENTS – PHILLIPS

1. Staff performed the oath of office for Maria Barakat and Cecilia Sofranko. Each Commissioner introduced themselves and the Commission welcomed them.
2. Chair Phillips announced one (1) opening in the Second District and two (2) openings in the Fifth District however two individuals will be getting appointed for the Fifth District in July.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDIZED ITEMS- PHILLIPS

- Matthew Lee
- Adina Flores

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 Lopez volunteered for Sonoma County Pride on June 1st after Chair Phillips asked for volunteers.
2. Commissioners Sapper and Barakat volunteered to table at the Juneteenth Community Festival Celebration on June 15th from 10am-6pm.
3. Chair Phillips reminded everyone to submit all reimbursements and invoices by Friday, June 14th as the Fiscal year ends June 30th.
4. Commissioner Sapper reported on affordable housing issues in Sonoma County. There are many violations in human rights security, true affordability, and apparent abuse of landlords.

VII. AD HOC COMMITTEE AND PROJECT COMMITTEE UPDATES

1. Visibility ad hoc will be collecting data to create report to present to the Board of Supervisors.
2. Just Migration Reform ad hoc announced that Northern California Coalition on Just Immigration Reform will be sending leaders to Washington DC on July 20-30th. On August 17th-19th, a march will be happening from San Jose to San Francisco.
3. Youth Commission Project is accepting applications until June 9th for the new cohort and current Youth Commissioners will be doing the interviews. Their end of year celebration happened at Spring Lake, where they shared positive affirmations and ate cake. They don't need extra funds.
4. Collective Care Response Team met with Damon Connolly's office, and they are being supportive. Piqui's Law passed, but it's not being enforced. They are in an odd place with legislative and the courtrooms. They want to enlist community members to do court watch. They have different court watcher cohorts. They will have an end of the year gathering without disclosing the location for safety reasons.

VIII. REGULAR CALENDAR

1. Commissioner Sapper read the Jewish Heritage Month Resolution and led the discussion. Some Commissioners asked for clarification on the reasoning of the resolution. They suggested to edit the content and have Jewish organizations input on the content. After much discussion, they left the resolution as is and they

approved the resolution. Motion to pass the Jewish Heritage Month Resolution.

Public Comment:

- Unknown

Motion: Commissioner Sapper

Ayes: 9

Noes: 0

Second: Commissioner Merrell

Absent: 2

Abstained: 1

Commissioners Cruz Reyes and Warwick were absent. Chair Phillips abstained as Chair. Motion passed.

2. Commissioner Lemarquand proposed to purchase Google Workspace. This software would allow Commissioners to all have Gmails, can work collaboratively in ad hocs, and have more professional communication channels. It cost \$6 per month per user. Staff will purchase the subscription in July, the start of the new fiscal year. Motion to approve \$1080 for the yearly subscription of Google Workspace.

No Public Comment

Motion: Commissioner Sapper

Ayes: 9

Noes: 0

Second: Commissioner Kerlow

Absent: 2

Abstained: 1

Commissioners Cruz Reyes and Warwick were absent. Chair Phillips abstained as Chair. Motion passed.

3. Commissioner Lemarquand would like to use the OWL technology at the Petaluma Veterans Memorial Building during the Commission meetings. The commission would purchase the device for up to \$1,000. This would create a hub for meetings. Creating another hub would allow the public to join meeting in-person. There was some discussion to not purchase an OWL for the Petaluma Veterans Memorial Building as Zoom already helps the public access the meetings. During the strategic planning meeting, they will discuss this more. No action was taken.
4. Commissioner Merrell led the discussion to support the surveillance technology ordinance; calling on the City of Santa Rosa to pass importance related to that technology that provides with oversight. The Commission voiced their support. A letter of support will be written for next meeting. No action was taken.

Public Comment:

- Nancy Pamberton
- Unknown

5. Chair Phillips led the nomination for the Kathleen Finigan Award. The Commission nominated Land a Hand- Jason Windus who created winter shelters using his moving trailers, and Kathy King with SOS housing the unhoused in Sonoma Vally. The Commission will vote on a recipient next meeting when they have written bios on each candidate. No action was taken.
6. Chair Phillips postponed the nominations for Officers due to Vice Chair Warwick's absence.

7. Chair Phillips led the budget discussion. All ad hocs will be spending their allocated budget. The Visibility Project will get back to Staff regarding their budget. The general fund has \$1326.29. The Commission suggested to use it for Pride swag. Motion to spend \$1326.29 for Pride swag.

Public Comment:

- Unknown

Motion: Commissioner Benson

Ayes: 9

Noes: 0

Second: Commissioner Lopez

Absent: 2

Abstained: 1

Commissioners Cruz Reyes and Warwick were absent. Chair Phillips abstained as Chair. Motion passed.

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

1. Officers Elections
2. Strategic planning meeting
3. Surveillance technology ordinance
4. Kathleen Finigan Award
5. Affordable housing issues in Sonoma County
6. Hunger strike happening at the county jail.

X. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:21 p.m.