



HUMBOLDT COUNTY HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

Draft Regular Meeting Minutes

January 5, 2023, 5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

I. CALL TO ORDER: 5:31 p.m.

Chair Glover read the Wiyot land acknowledgement statement.

“As we gather today, we acknowledge that Eureka, California is ancestral territory of the Wiyot people. We also honor all Indigenous people and territories and Sovereign governments that share governance within Humboldt County, California. We gather with respect and gratitude to these Indigenous People. We thank and honor the Indigenous Caretakers of this land who continue to cherish and protect it. Their elders have instructed the young to consider the seven generations ahead as they continue to protect the rights of the land and all people who live on it. We encourage all to align and follow the lead of local Indigenous communities as they steward the land and protect all of its natural resources.”

II. ROLL CALL:

Present: Nine (9) members present for a quorum.

DISTRICT 1

Jim Glover (Chair)
Carol Larsen (Secretary)
Byrd Lochtie

DISTRICT 2

Larry Miller
Datsolali Perkins – joined 5:37 p.m.

DISTRICT 3

Guy Aronoff (Treasurer)
Jamie Jensen
Ellen Murphy – joined 5:41 p.m.

DISTRICT 4

Mary Lyons (Vice Chair)
Eddie Morgan ~ absent
Kimberly Wiley

DISTRICT 5

Lisa Sundberg

Guest: Fernando Paz of Cal Poly Humboldt

Chair Glover welcomed the newest appointed Commissioner Kimberly Wiley and asked her to introduce herself.

III. AGENDA ADJUSTMENTS:

The agenda for January 5, 2023 was presented and accepted as amended.

Commissioner Sundberg requested to add to next month's agenda the topic of supporting the Hupa Tribe.

IV. OPENING NOTES:

Chair Glover read the function of the Human Rights Commission as a reminder of the commission's obligation.

Commissioner Perkins joined the meeting at 5:37 p.m.; which established a quorum of 10 members present.

V. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:

The December 1, 2022 Regular Minutes were accepted as amended.

MOTION 1

Byrd Lochtie moved to accept the December 1, 2022 Regular Minutes as amended. Second Guy Aronoff.

In favor 10; Opposed 0; Unanimously agreed

Commissioner Murphy joined the meeting at 5:41 p.m.; which established a quorum of 11 members present.

VI. TREASURER'S REPORT:

Treasurer Aronoff reported there has been no change in the account over the last three months; which the balance remains at \$476.90.

Chair Glover asked the Treasurer to forward the password and account number to him for reference.

VII. GUEST SPEAKER:

Fernando Paz of Cal Poly Humboldt gave a verbal presentation on the status of the Latin community in Humboldt County along with Brenda, a co-worker.

Highlighting the following:

- History of how he came to Humboldt County
- Trauma of raids in southern Humboldt, concerns of the people
- Responding to the community immediate needs, legal aide, rent, food, warmth, and safety
- Arcata as a sanctuary city and Humboldt as a sanctuary county (Humboldt was the first in nation to have as a ballot measure

- Letting people know what was happening to undocumented people in Humboldt
- Work with County agencies regarding anti-immigrant policies, violence, COVID 19 process, public health,
- Vandalized gardens, hate crimes, and memories of raids from ten years ago
- Fear of housing inspectors after earthquakes
- Need to communicate with the community
- Working on a celebration to be held in September 2023

Commissioners thanked the presenters for the shared information and informed them of the Sanctuary Ordinance written in Spanish. The Commission decided to suggest the Sanctuary Committee develop a letter of support.

Chair Glover thanked the presenters who then left the Zoom meeting at 6:03 p.m.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Chair Glover read the statement from the agenda.

“If a member of the public speaks and request assistance on a non-agenda subject, the Commission may not take any action or propose any solution, but the citizen(s) may be given a resource card for contact information relevant to their issue, the citizen(s) may be given a complaint intake form for purposed of adding to a future agenda of the next regular HRC meeting, and finally an individual commissioner may speak to the citizen(s) apart from the meeting and recommend steps they might take.”

“Members of the public will each be allowed to speak on agenda items once during discussion, usually at the end of commissioner comments and prior to any action or vote by the commission. Time to speak will be closely monitored. (3 minutes per person)”

Public Comment: Christina Goerss shared her concerns and asked where to go for help. The Commissioner suggested she contact the HRC message line and leave detail information so the Commission may response. Also, to offer her a resource card.

Public Comment: Janelle Eggar shared a comment regarding the Brown Act as unfriendly to the public that attend the meetings and suggested placing the topic on the next agenda.

IX. COMMISSION COMMUNICATIONS:

a) **Emails, Regular Mail:**

Chair Glover reported there were no new emails received.

b) **All other announcements and communications:**

Chair Glover mentioned looking at Christina Goerss' communication. No announcements or communications were reported from others commissioners.

c) **Message Line Report:**

Commissioner Jensen reported receiving six calls; two were tenants' rights, one was a long standing harassment with police, several were pertaining to entry for the logo contest, and one regarding a disable woman evicted.

Commissioner Miller reported receiving nine calls; three were from the county jail, one regarding food stamps which we do not have anything to do with that concern, a call regarding Department of Health Services, a women looking for help, a call asking for Betty Chin's phone number, and a call from lady interested in applying to Human Rights Commission.

Future Scheduling of Message Line

January 1-15 – Aronoff
January 16-31 – Murphy
February 1-15 – Larsen
February 16-28 – Miller
March 1-15 ~ Lyons
March 16-31 ~ Murphy

X. CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES LIAISON REPORT:

Commissioner Miller reported he just got word the jail liaison is no longer employed at the jail and Sargeant Garcia is now the liaison.

XI. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

SANCTUARY ORDINANCE

(Aronoff, Morgan, Glover)
Discussion / Possible Action

Commissioner Aronoff reported there is no action at this time other than having the speakers today. It was suggested that the Committee plan a meeting to discuss a statement or letter in response to the presentation provided by our guest speakers. Chair Glover volunteered to participate on this Committee and to inquire the status of Commissioner Morgan.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING FUND

(Glover, Lochtie, Morgan, Sundberg)
Discussion / Possible Action

Chair Glover reported there are funds available to support EPI and to support their walk this Saturday, January 7 at the Adorni Center.

XII. AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORTS:

CULTURAL AWARENESS - End date: 12-31-2023
(Larsen, Lochtie, Miller)

Purpose: tracking of cultural awareness and activities in the county.
Current Issue: Activity to be determined
Discussion / Possible Action
Renew, revise, discontinue?

Commissioner Larsen reported no activity for the month. The Commissioners discussed whether to continue the Ad-hoc Committee. After discussion and clarification of the purpose of the Ad-hoc Committee the following motion was made:

MOTION 2

Byrd Lochtie moved to extend the Cultural Awareness Ad-hoc Committee end date to December 31, 2023. Second by Guy Aronoff. In favor: 10, Opposed: 0, motion passed

HOMELESSNESS / BEHAVIOR HEALTH - End date 06-30-2023
(Aronoff, Glover, Larsen)

Purpose: to monitor actions and issues that will improve housing / shelter options and living situations for all residents.
Current Issue: Open
Discussion / Possible Action

Commissioner Aronoff reported the Committee has not met. He stated he would forward President Biden's release information documents regarding the homeless and funding. Also, he will set up a meeting by email.

SURVEY RESULTS AND POLICIES - End date: 02-28-2023
(Glover, Lochtie, Murphy)

Purpose: Make policy recommendations to Board of Supervisors
Current Issue: Create a competition utilizing citizen suggestions and art
Discussion / Possible Action

Commissioner Murphy reported there is no report at this time. She still needs to finish up the document and survey to place on the County website.

MOTION 3

Byrd Lochtie moved to extend the Survey Results and Policies Ad-hoc Committee end date to February 28, 2023. Seconded by Guy Aronoff. In favor: 10, Opposed: 0, motion passed

NEW COMMISSION LOGO-Committee - End date: 12-31-22
(Perkins, Glover)

Purpose: Develop a Human Rights Commission logo
Current Issue: Create a competition utilizing citizen suggestions / art
Discussion / Possible Action

Chair Glover shared, on behalf of Commissioner Perkins, that five submissions were considered and several, if changes are made, will be considered. Discussion was held regarding the rest of the submissions and the Commissioners would like to see all of the submissions before making a decision on the winner. Chair Glover will send out all the submissions for the Commissioners' review and consideration.

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES COMMITTEE-End date 12-31-2023

(**Sundberg**, Aronoff, Larsen, Miller)

Purpose: To assure respect of indigenous peoples and promote their safety and rights within the county.

Current Issue: Murdered and missing Indigenous People.

Discussion / Possible Action

Commissioner Sundberg requested to extend the end date for the Ad-hoc Committee to December 31, 2023. She shared the Ad-hoc Committee is useful and provides an in-depth avenue for communication with community.

Lisa – always be there or not, long term committee,

MOTION 4

Lisa Sundberg moved to extend the Indigenous Peoples Ad-hoc Committee end date to December 31, 2023. Seconded by Guy Aronoff.

In favor: 10, Opposed: 0, motion passed

Commissioner Sundberg mentioned the request from Danielle Masten in support of a letter of release of missing persons. In addition, if the Commission could look into the Title 9 issue to support to protect women. Chair Glover suggest the Ad-hoc Committee meet to craft a letter and he will place this topic on the next agenda

JUNIOR HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION - End date 12-31-23

Purpose: To explore and possibly establish high school level participation in the subject of human rights throughout the county.

Current Issue: Exploring the options and mechanics of such a project.

Committee Members: (**Jensen**, Lochtie, Lyons, Murphy)

Discussion / Possible Action

Commissioner Jensen reported she does not have a lot to report for December. She reminded the Commission of the Girl Scout event on Poverty Simulation to be held on January 29. She asked any Commissioner interested in helping with the simulation to let her know. She will forward an email to all. No preexisting knowledge is necessary to participate.

Commissioner Murphy volunteered to be a member of this Ad-hoc Committee.

XI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

No unfinished business at this time was presented.

XII. NEW BUSINESS:

No new business at this time was presented.

XIII. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

Proposed agenda items for February 2, 2023

- Dr. Raymer of United Indian Health Services was invited to provide a presentation regarding Pronouns
- Human Trafficking – President Biden dedicated the month of January as Human Trafficking Month
- Request to Humboldt Area Foundation to Disperse Funds

Commissioner Lochtie asked that the Human Trafficking Fund Committee remain a standing committee.

MOTION 5

**Byrd Lochtie moved to request the Humboldt Area Foundation refund all the remaining funds to the Human Rights Commission and close out the fund with them. Seconded by Mary Lyons.
In favor: 10, Opposed: 0, motion passed**

MOTION 6

**Byrd Lochtie moved to change name of the Human Trafficking Fund to Human Trafficking Education and Eratication Committee. Seconded by Lisa Sundberg.
In favor: 10, Opposed: 0, motion passed**

Committee members Jim Glover, Byrd Lochtie, Sundberg, and Kimberly Wiley and to remove Eddie Morgan.

- Add AHHA – No showers for homeless and lodging status
- Process for Removing a Commissioner due to absences

XIV. ADJOURNMENT:

Chair Glover called for a motion to adjourn.

MOTION 7

Lisa Sundberg moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:05 p.m. Seconded by Mary Lyons. The vote was unanimous.