



## **Regular Meeting Minutes**

April 3, 2025, 5:30 pm – 7:50 pm.

Community members made explicit comments once the Zoom link was active and the meeting began. Community members were asked to hold comments till public comment and community members were muted on Zoom.

I. CALL TO ORDER: (5 min)

II. ROLL CALL:

DISTRICT 1

Jim Glover (Chair) ~ present

Carol Larsen ~ excused

Byrd Lochtie ~ present

DISTRICT 2

Larry Miller ~ present

Peter Pennekamp ~ Zoom

DISTRICT 3

Guy Aronoff ~ present

Jamie Jensen ~ present

Ellen Murphy (secretary)~ present

DISTRICT 4

Richard Botzler ~ present

DISTRICT 5

Lisa Sundberg ~ absent

Present: eight (8) members were present for a quorum during the roll call.

Chair Glover read the Wiyot land acknowledgment statement as follows:

"As we gather today, we acknowledge that Eureka, California, is the ancestral territory of the Wiyot people. We also honor all Indigenous people, 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 its natural resources."

A moment of silence was held.

A reminder of our function: to aid in the eradication of discrimination in housing, employment, education, public accommodation, race, religious creed, color, national origin, ancestry, physical disability, mental disability, marital status, gender, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, civic interest, or other factors. Ours is an advisory commission whose primary purpose is to recommend actions to the Board of Supervisors that may address issues related to human rights in our County.

III. Agenda Adjustments: (1 min)

The agenda of March 20 was accepted.

IV. Approval of Meeting Minutes: (1 min)

Minutes for the February 6, 2025 meeting were approved as amended.

Minutes for the March 20, 2025 meeting were approved as amended.

V. Treasurer's Report: (1 min)

In Larsen's absence, the budget balance was reported.

\$4224.22 and \$3219.64 in county account

The Commission determined that the County requested whether funds should be rolled over to the next fiscal year — consensus was affirmative.

VI. Guest Speaker(s):

Guest Speaker: Carla Rubio, BSW student at Cal Poly Humboldt

Topic: *Understanding Racism: Impacts on Community and Schools*

- Definitions and forms of racism: individual, institutional, systemic.
- Historical background and current challenges in racism.
- Mental and physical health impacts.
- Focus on effects on children: bullying, mental health, school safety.
- Case study: 11-year-old Josephine Gro's suicide after bullying.
- Importance of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) efforts.
- Call to action: advocacy, raising awareness, collective action.
- Questions and discussion followed, focusing on protecting DEI efforts and raising public awareness locally.

#### Commission Discussion Following Presentation

-Ideas shared on public advocacy, working with schools, and collaborating with the Humboldt County Office of Education.

-Suggestions to use press releases and public storytelling to raise awareness.

-Possibility of utilizing mental health awareness month (May) to connect racism and mental health.

#### VII. Commission Communications

a) Chair notes

b) Emails, Regular Mail

c) Commissioner announcements

d) Correctional Facilities Liaison Report (5 min)

Ongoing jail visits; scheduling upcoming visits and some issues persist but are being addressed.

#### VIII. Public Comment: (15 min)- comment read by Chair Glover

"The Public is invited to speak regarding matters not on the agenda. Comments are limited to three minutes (two minutes if there are numerous commenters). Pursuant to the Ralph M. Brown Act, the Commission may not act on an item not appearing on the agenda. The Chair will present comments received by email. In the event of hateful, threatening, or unnecessarily negative comments, the Chair will admonish one or all commenters that they may be muted if they persist in such actions. The purpose of the Commission is to heal wounds and create solutions, not be a platform for those who may have another agenda. If a public member speaks and requests assistance on a non-agenda subject, the Commission may not act or propose any solutions. Still, the

citizen(s) may be given a resource card for contact information relevant to their issue, and the citizen(s) may be given a complaint intake form to add to a future agenda of the next regular HRC meeting. 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, at the end of commissioner comments, and before any action or vote by the Commission. In the event of hateful, threatening, or unnecessarily negative comments, the Chair will mute and admonish one or all commenters that they may be further muted if they persist in such actions. Time to speak will be closely monitored (3 minutes per person).

(No public comments)

e) Message Line Report

March 16–31: (Jensen) Six calls logged, including referrals and positive community feedback

April 1–15: (Glover) One call logged regarding event registration.

April 16-30- Botzler

May 1-15- Murphy

May 16-31- Larsen

June 1–15: Botzler

June 16–30: Jensen

IX. Standing Committee Reports: (1 min)

SANCTUARY ORDINANCE

Committee Members: [Aronoff, Glover]

Discussion / Possible Action

Discussion of Sanctuary Statement?

Arcata held a well-attended Sanctuary City event.

Growing collaboration noted between Equity Arcata, Centro del Pueblo, and law enforcement.

RAPID RESPONSE-

Purpose: Improve responses to volatile community issues. CURRENT ISSUE: Integrate the use of Neutral Observers into the Rapid Response protocol we currently have in place. Committee Members: (Miller, Glover, Jensen)  
(no activity)

X. Ad hoc Committee Reports: (25 min)

YOUTH HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION- Committee ending date 7-31-25

Purpose: To explore and possibly establish high school-level and college-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, Murphy]

- Youth Commission continues weekly meetings (except third Thursdays).
- Focus on bylaw development (discussion about transitioning to standing rules rather than formal bylaws).
- Working on hosting listening sessions at local high schools.
- Potential participation in foster youth pop-up events.
- Planning presentation at College of the Redwoods on April 10.

CULTURAL AWARENESS-ending date 12-31-2025

Purpose: Tracking of cultural awareness and activities in the County

CURRENT ISSUE: Open

Committee Members: [Larsen, Miller, Lochtie]

Discussion / Possible Action

No report; missed meeting due to technical issues (Zoom link confusion).

TECHNOLOGY-COMMUNICATIONS-ending 2-31-2025

Purpose: To revitalize the Commission's presence in the community through the use of electronic/digital media. CURRENT

ISSUE: FaceBook Committee Members:(Glover, Arnoff)

Discussion/Possible Action.

- Continued updates on website postings.
- Invitation to contribute additional content for visibility.

FREE SPEECH VS. HATE SPEECH ending date 12-31-2025

Purpose: Develop/plan a public event contrasting hate speech and free speech.

CURRENT ISSUE: Deteriorating level of civil discourse over essential community issues. Committee Members [Botzler, Lochtie, Miller, Larsen] Discussion/Possible Action.

- Workshop scheduled for April 26 led by Mary Gelinias.
- Registration ongoing; outreach efforts continuing.

HOMELESSNESS / BEHAVIORAL HEALTH-ending date:12-31-2025

Purpose: To monitor actions and issues to improve residents' housing/shelter options and living situations. CURRENT ISSUE: Open Committee Members: [Aronoff, Larsen, Glover] Discussion/Possible Action:

- Assembly Bill discussed improving homeless shelter safety.
- Draft of a letter regarding homelessness crisis introduced; to be reviewed at the next meeting.

NEUTRAL OBSERVERS-Committee ending date:12-31-2025

Purpose: Have neutral observers willing and ready to use in responding to volatile community issues

CURRENT ISSUE: Develop a program of knowledgeable, trained Neutral Observers who can be available to help defuse volatile situations.

Committee Members: (Miller, Glover, Jensen, Pennekamp)

XI. Unfinished Business:

Tribal Liaison Proposal: Postponed to next meeting.

Budgetary Support for Meeting Expenses: Supervisor Mike Wilson contacted; follow-up pending.

Multilingual Message Line Services: Discussion ongoing

XII. NEW BUSINESS:

Future Commission Evaluation: Tracy D. (Clerk of Board of Supervisors) will attend the next meeting for evaluation and discussion about improving commission structure and practices.

Commissioners asked to submit ideas beforehand.

Interest expressed in expanding outreach, improving recruitment, and supporting translation and interpretation services.

Invitation extended to prospective new commissioner attending the meeting.

XIII. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

XIV. ADJOURNMENT:

Chair Glover called for adjournment at

Minutes prepared by Commissioner Murphy