



HUMBOLDT COUNTY HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

Regular Meeting Minutes

June 1, 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 follows:

“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.”

A moment of silence was held.

II. ROLL CALL:

DISTRICT 1

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

DISTRICT 2

Larry Miller
Dsolali Perkins - Resigned
Nazanin Szanto – Arrived at 8:37 p.m.

DISTRICT 3

Guy Aronoff (Treasurer)
Jamie Jensen - Excused
Ellen Murphy

DISTRICT 4

Erin Degenstein - Absent
Mary Lyons (Vice Chair) - Resigned
Vacant

DISTRICT 5

Alissa Norman

Lisa Sundberg - Absent
Kimberly Wiley
Present: Seven (7) members were present for a quorum.

III. AGENDA ADJUSTMENTS:

The agenda for June 1, 2023, was accepted as presented.

IV. OPENING NOTES:

Notes from the Chair

Chairperson Glover welcomed everyone. He informed the commission that an application was sent to become a participant at Festejando at Cal Poly Humboldt scheduled for September 16, 2023.

V. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:

The May 4, 2023, Regular Minutes were accepted as presented.

VI. TREASURER'S REPORT:

Treasurer Aronoff reported there has been no change in the account and the balance remains the same as last month at \$476.90.

VII. GUEST SPEAKER:

Chairperson Glover introduced Brianna Colegrove, Sophomore at North Coast Preparatory Academy. Brianna Colegrove provided a PowerPoint presentation titled "Into to Pronouns." Brianna explained the reason for developing the presentation was because of the many questions asked. The presentation consisted of the following topics:

What are pronouns? What is cisgender? What is transgender? What is non-binary? What is genderfluid? What is two-spirit? Why are pronouns important? How can you ask someone what their pronoun(s) are? Why is it helpful to display your pronouns as a cisgender person. What could the process of figuring out your gender identity may look like? Are pronouns a 'trend?' What is the difference bet sex and gender. How can you be a good LGBTQ + ally.

The Commissioners had many questions and comments. The presentation left the commission with the understanding it is okay to make a mistake using a pronoun, acknowledge it then move on, and to respect the individual's journey.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT:

There were no public comments at this time.

IX. COMMISSION COMMUNICATIONS:

a) **Emails, Regular Mail**

Chairperson Glover reported that he did not receive any community emails.

b) **Commissioner Announcements:**

No announcements were reported at this time.

c) **Message Line Report:**

Commissioner Lochtie reported on calls received during May 1-15: a caller reports receiving harassing calls from a neighbor. The next caller reported dumping on the former Jacobs Jr. High School property. There were two calls regarding the Humboldt Access program. The last caller reported an incident where she heard noises at night then turned on her porch light then later, she was visited by County Under Sheriff and County Code personnel who searched her home then showed her the warrant. In each case the callers were provided with help to address their situation.

Commissioner Miller reported for May 16-31. He received a caller from the county jail.

Commissioner Aronoff reported for today, June 1, that he receive a forwarding message from Commissioner Miller.

d) **Correctional Facilities Liaison Report**

Commissioner Miller reported receiving two inmate calls. Commissioner Miller will follow up with the inmates then report back next month.

Commissioner Wiley volunteered to become the female Human Rights contact person for female inmates. She will connect with Commissioner Miller to begin the process through the county jail.

Future Scheduling of Message Line

Added to the scheduling as follows:

August 1-15: Commissioner – Kim Wiley

August 16-31: Commissioner – Larry Miller

Chairperson Glover volunteered to train commissioners Degenstein, Norman, and Szanto how to access the message line.

X. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

SANCTUARY ORDINANCE

(Aronoff, Glover)

Discussion / Possible Action

Commissioner Aronoff reported he met with Fernando Paz to find a student to join the Commission who represents the community that may access with continuing issues. Commissioner Aronoff was asked to invite Fernando to be a presenter in the future.

XII. AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORTS:

CULTURAL AWARENESS - End date: 12-31-2023

Purpose: tracking of cultural awareness and activities in the county

Current Issue: Open

Committee Members: **Larsen**, Lochtie, Miller

Discussion / Possible Action

Commissioner Larsen reported that the committee's idea to work with schools may not happen during the summer because schools are out for the summer.

HOMELESSNESS / BEHAVIOR HEALTH - End date 06-30-2023

Purpose: to monitor actions and issues that will improve housing / shelter options and living situations for all residents.

Current Issue: Open

Committee Members: **Aronoff**, Glover, Larsen

Discussion / Possible Action

Commissioner Aronoff reported there are two performances on homelessness to be held at the Eureka town hall.

NEW COMMISSION LOGO-Committee - End date: 06-30-2023

Purpose: Develop a Human Rights Commission logo

Current Issue: Winning design being edited. Final design available in June

Committee Members: **Perkins**, Glover

Discussion / Possible Action

Presentation of new Logo

Introduction of winning artist

Commissioner Glover reported that former Commissioner Perkins will finish the logo project. The winner of the contest has been paid and the Commission has yet to see the finished project.

HUMAN RIGHTS PSA – Committee ending date: 07-31-2023

Purpose: Develop, produce, and disseminate public service announcements countering disinformation regarding LGBTQIA+, Jewish, Indigenous, Immigrant, Homeless, and other vulnerable populations

Current Issue: As noted above

Committee Members: **Glover**, Norman, with assistance – Tracy Barnes Priestley

Discussion/Possible Action

Commissioner Glover reported the public service announcements (PSA) project will start in July. He mentioned our PSA messages will need to be concise and to the point. Once the PSAs are completed, they will air on TV channel 3 and 6 at least one during news broadcast and all six PSAs will be rotated.

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES COMMITTEE - End date 12-31-2023

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

Current Issue: Murdered and missing Indigenous People

Committee Members: **Sundberg**, Aronoff, Larsen, Miller

Discussion / Possible Action

Commissioner Sundberg was not present to provide a report at this time.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND ERADICATION - End date 12-31-2023

Purpose: To assist ongoing efforts against human trafficking in Humboldt County.

Current Issue: Open

Committee Members: Glover, Lochtie, Sundberg, Wiley

Discussion / Possible Action

Chairperson Glover reported he attended and assisted at the Blue Lake event.

JUNIOR HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION - End date 06-30-24

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 Glover mentioned a report will be presented at the next meeting.

XII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Election of Officers for next year (Lochtie-Miller)

Commissioner Lochtie reported she and Commissioner Miller were appointed to send out a message to all eligible commissioners seeking nominations, of which five nominations were received. Nominations may be made from the floor at the meeting, provided the person nominated has agreed to serve if elected.

Commissioner Lochtie announced the slate of nominations for each office as follows:

- Chair – Jim Glover
- Vice Chair – Kim Wiley
- Treasurer – Guy Aronoff
- Secretary – Ellen Murphy

MOTION 1

Commissioner Byrd Lochte moved to approve the slate as presented.

Seconded by Nazanin Szanto.

In favor: 9, opposed: 0

Motion carried.

Request to record the vote by name.

- Guy Aronoff – yes
- Erin Degenstein - yes
- Jim Glover – yes
- Carol Larsen - yes
- Byrd Lochtie – yes
- Larry Miller – yes
- Ellen Murphy - yes
- Alissa Norman – yes
- Nazanin Szanto - yes

XIII. NEW BUSINESS: Discussion / Possible Action

Hate Speech Resolution by Board of Supervisors. Next Steps from our Commission? Letter of appreciation to Board of Supervisors and actions vs words from Human Rights Commission

The Commissioners held a discussion where the following was agreed upon.

CONSENSUS 1

The Commission agreed to have Chairperson Glover write a draft letter of appreciation to the Board of Supervisors regarding their Hate Speech Resolution then forward the draft letter via email to all Commissioner for review and comment.

Consideration of a proposed internship that would aid in improved outreach and development of broader Commission activities.

A lengthy discussion was held about obtaining support to work with the Department of Rehabilitation to support a plan for integrating the Human Rights Commission to improve connection with the community. Commissioner Szanto provided a handout that explained her concept. After discussion, the Commission agreed to the concept and asked for a report back. Commissioner Murphy recused herself from the vote.

MOTION 2

Nazanin Szanto moved to pursue adoption to develop an internship with the Department of Rehabilitation.

Seconded by Commissioner Byrd Lochtie.

In favor: 7, opposed 0; abstain: 2

Motion carried.

Possible Southern Humboldt outreach meeting and other outreach to community

Commissioner Lochtie suggested that the Commission should have an outreach meeting in Southern Humboldt. Based on the suggestion, Chairperson Glover created an ad hoc Eel River Valley Outreach Committee for this purpose. Members of the ad hoc committee are Jim Glover, Alissa Norman, and Larry

Miller.

Equity training for Commission

It was mentioned that a person was referred to us who may provide equity training for the Commission. This topic will be discussed at the next meeting.

Compensation for human rights PSA project.

No discussion is needed currently.

XIV. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS: (as listed below)

- Tiffany Laffoon on the subject of Homelessness – set for July’s meeting.
- Reaching out to students to apply to be commissioners.
- Discuss ways to address and intervene on high numbers of murdered women.
- Department of Rehabilitation Internship.
- Letter of Appreciation to Board of Supervisors.
- Equity training to include diversity.
- County Jail training.
- Protocols for identifying transgender.

XV. ADJOURNMENT:

Chair Glover called for adjournment.

MOTION 3

Commissioner Byrd Lochtie moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:07 p.m.

Seconded by Commissioner Larry Miller.

The vote was unanimous.