



Regular Meeting Minutes

June 5, 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 ~ present

Byrd Lochtie ~ present

DISTRICT 2

Larry Miller ~ excused

Peter Pennekamp ~ present

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.

Land Acknowledgement

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

Commissioner Lochtie requested two items to be moved earlier in the agenda due to a scheduling conflict. The Commission approved these adjustments.

IV. Approval of Minutes

The minutes from May 1, 2025, were approved as amended.

V. Treasurer's Report

- Current balance: \$4,391.95
- Recent deposit: \$538.46

Book Distribution

Copies of *Talk Matters* are available for commissioners and possible distribution to libraries.

VI. Guest Speaker(s): none

VII. Commission Communications

a) Chair notes

b) Emails, Regular Mail

c) Commissioner announcements

d) Correctional Facilities Liaison Report (5 min)

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).

IX. Commission Structure Discussion

Meeting Space

- Various perspectives were shared regarding the courthouse as a meeting venue, considering accessibility, public perception, and logistical limitations.
- Discussion included use of larger venues (e.g., Supervisors' Chambers) for public engagement events, acknowledging security and scheduling concerns.

Zoom Participation & Brown Act

- Importance of retaining Zoom access was emphasized for inclusivity, especially in rural areas.
- The Commission discussed advocating for Brown Act adjustments to better suit rural commissions.

Room Size & Accessibility

- Commissioners expressed concern about room capacity during high-attendance meetings, emphasizing the need for accessible, welcoming spaces.
- Ideas included cookies/snacks for hospitality and efforts to make the courthouse a more inviting civic space.

Committee Formation

- An ad hoc committee was formed to explore outreach, accessibility, language inclusion, and public engagement.
Members: Glover, Botzler, Lochtie, and Larsen
Mission: Increase meeting accessibility and community awareness
Timeline: Through September 1, 2025
-

Language & Interpretation Access

- Support was voiced for providing interpreters upon request.
- Strategy: Post notices with agenda encouraging those needing interpretation to request it in advance.
- Outreach and publicity (e.g., press release) needed to inform community of interpretation availability.

Zoom/Access Humboldt

- Access Humboldt's translation capabilities via captions were discussed, though limited in simultaneous language translation.
- Further exploration of technological options was delegated to committee.

Interpreter Compensation

- Agreement that interpreters must be paid for their work and that the Commission should budget accordingly.
-

Tribal Liaison Letter

- The Commission reviewed and revised a draft letter to the Board of Supervisors.
- Updates included:
 - Terminology change: "American Indians" preferred over "Native Americans"
 - Addition recognizing tribes as sovereign political entities
 - Inclusion of recommendation to consider a tribal liaison position within the Sheriff's Office
 - Language edits: "role" used instead of "impact"; "encouraging" instead of "enlisting"
- The letter will be circulated to all 8 local tribes for feedback by July 31, 2025.

Historical Context

Community member Chip provided historical insight on previous liaison efforts, including a Justice Department-mediated agreement in 1982 that resulted in a tribal liaison within the Sheriff's Office.

Community Health Crisis & Outreach

- Discussion centered on Humboldt's worsening healthcare access crisis, especially for low-income and rural residents.
 - Commissioners proposed writing a letter/public statement to raise awareness and advocate for structural solutions (e.g., regional medical school, expanding facilities).
 - Glover and Botzler will draft a letter for Commission review.
-

X. Message Line Report

May 1-15 Murphy

May 16-31 Lasen

- Several jail-related calls, one upset caller with no callback number were reported, and one caller wanting to know if we wanted reference cards.

June 1–15: Aronoff

June 16–30: Pennekamp

July 1-15: Jensen

July 16-31: Glover

XI. Standing Committee Reports:

SANCTUARY ORDINANCE

Committee Members: [Aronoff, Glover]

Discussion / Possible Action

Discussion of Sanctuary Statement?

- ACLU red cards were discussed for distribution.
- Coordination with local organizations like Centro del Pueblo was recommended before printing.

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)

XII. Ad hoc Committee Reports:

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 members remain active; recruitment letters will be sent to schools in the fall.
- Commissioners acknowledged graduating seniors and discussed adjusting the commission's timeline to avoid May conflicts.

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

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.

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 [Betzler, Lochtie, Miller, Larsen] Discussion/Possible Action.

- Committee extended through December 31, 2025.

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:

- Botzler proposed a motion to write a letter to the Board of Supervisors that they recommend an exception to the telecommunications exemption in the Brown Act. This motion was seconded by Aronoff. The vote was unanimous approved.
- Commissioners voted to support Assembly Bills 750 and 1165 regarding homelessness and shelter safety.

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)

XIII. Unfinished Business: Housing Letter

- Botzler proposed a motion that the letter drafted for the Board of Supervisors regarding houselessness be sent as amended. This motion was seconded by Pennekamp. The vote was unanimously approved.
-

XIV. New Business

Election of Officers

- The slate of officers for the next fiscal year was summited for vote by Glover and seconded Botzler as follows.
 - Chair Glover: Jim Glover
 - Vice Chair: Guy Aronoff
 - Secretary: Ellen Murphy
 - Treasure: Carol Larsen

Vote was unanimously approved.

XVI. Future Agenda Item

- Glover and Aronoff proposed exploring the Commission's role in responding to the Cal Poly Humboldt anti-Semitism investigation. This will be added to the next agenda.
-

XX. Adjournment

Chair Glover called for adjournment at 7:19 PM

Minutes prepared by Commissioner Murphy