

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

Tuesday, June 27, 2023

5:00PM

Hybrid

Commissioners Present:

First District: Howard Sapper (Officer-at-Large)*, Elizabeth Escalante (Vice Chair), Sarah Kerlow*

Second District: Yensi Jacobo, Iliana Madrigal

Third District: Katrina Phillips (Chair), Isabel Lopez, Liz Cruz Reyes*

Fourth District: Trevor Merrell*

Staff: Meira Bowcut

Commissioners Absent:

Fifth District: Lyndsey Burcina, Nichole Warwick

- *Commissioner Cruz Reyes arrived late at approximately at 5:20pm.
- *Commissioner Sapper arrived late at approximately at 5:26pm.
- * Commissioner Merrell left early at approximately at 7:29pm.
- * Commissioner Kerlow left early at approximately at 8:08pm.

Meeting held virtually and in person

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

Meeting called to order by Chair Phillips at 5:16 PM. Chair Phillips read the mission statement. Roll call was taken by staff.

II. APPROVAL OF THE MAY 23, 2023 MINUTES – PHILLIPS

Chair Phillips asked for a motion to approve the minutes of May 23, 2023.

No Public Comment

Motion: Commissioner Madrigal

Ayes: 6

Noes: 0

Second: Commissioner Lopez

Absent:4

Abstained: 1

Commissioner Burcina and Warwick were absent. Commissioner Sapper and Cruz Reyes arrived late. Chair Phillips abstained as Chair. Motion passed.

III. OPENINGS & APPOINTMENTS – PHILLIPS

1. Chair Phillips welcomed Commissioner Kerlow to the Commission and thanked her for tabling at an event.
2. Chair Phillips congratulated Commissioner Escalante for her appointment to the First District.
3. Chair Phillips announced two (2) opening in the Second District, two (2) in the Fourth District, and one (1) in the Fifth District.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDIZED ITEMS- PHILLIPS

No Public Comment.

V. 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. Chair Phillips asked for volunteers to table at the Wednesday Night Market on July 19, 2023. No one volunteered to table with Commissioner Jacobo, but an email will be sent out.

VI. REGULAR CALENDAR

1. This month's Community Spotlight was Rebekah Schmitt with Sage Casey Foundation. Vice Chair Escalante introduced Rebekah Schmitt by thanking everyone for attending to show support to Sage Casey Foundation, to Sage Casey family themselves and to the LGBTQIA+ Community. Vice Chair Escalante provided a brief history of how they met and the community work that Rebekah Schmitt has done with Sage Casey Foundation. Rebekah Schmitt started her presentation with her own personal story with Sage. Then she introduced John a volunteer with Sage Casey Foundation who talked about the Camp Caz- Cazadero Performing Arts Camp. They started to sponsor two students in the community to attend Camp Caz for a full weeklong scholarship with the money that is donated to the foundation. Rebekah Schmitt then continued the presentation talking about the ripple effects of suicide, grief, recovery and reducing the stigma around mental health treatment. She concluded the presentation with providing tips on how to handle difficult situations when someone is going through a hard time. Vice Chair read and presented the resolution to recognize Rebekah Schmitt as a Community Human Rights Champion. Motion to approve the resolution.

No Public Comment.

Motion: Commissioner Sapper

Ayes: 8

Noes: 0

Second: Commissioner Madrigal

Absent:2

Abstained: 1

Commissioner Burcina and Warwick were absent. Chair Phillips abstained as Chair. Motion passed.

2. Attila Nagy introduced Terry Winter from Healthcare For All Working Group who presented the Proclamation for Health Care for All. Terry Winter clarified that Healthcare For All Working Group is a partnership with North Bay Jobs With Justice and H-Peace: Health Professionals for Equality and Community Empowerment. This resolution has been passed in Sonoma, Petaluma, Santa Rosa, and Sebastopol. Terry Winter provided data to show how the healthcare is worst in the United States compared to other countries. Terry Winter read the Proclamation. No action was taken at this meeting because it was a different resolution that was provided in the agenda packet compared to the one presented.

Public Comment:

- Julia Rapkins

- Grand Jury Complaint
- Resolutions
- Getting more speakers
- The Proclamation for MMIW – Indigenous Communication
- Intentional of Building Community—not feeling welcome during the meetings
- How the Commission’s working is being presented during outreach
- Meeting time

B. Barriers for participation

- Zoom option for Commissioners
- Sharing the space when talking
- Transportation-long drive
- More Zoom Meetings

C. Brainstorm new ad hocs and projects

- Immigration Ad Hoc
- Queer Youth Ad Hoc

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

1. The Strategic Planning will continue
2. Kathleen Finigan Award Ceremony
3. Sage Casey Foundation Resolution
4. Proclamation for Health Care for All

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:19 p.m.