

MARIN COUNTY HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

MARIN COUNTY CIVIC CENTER, ROOM 410-B, SAN RAFAEL, CA 94903

SEPTEMBER 9, 2014 - 6:30 – 8:30 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL – The meeting was called to order at 6:41pm

Present: A. Ahmadia, D. Aubin, A. Goerss, A. Marshall, D. Sievers. **Absent:** S. Scott, J. Shirley

Directly after meeting called to order Commissioner Durr said he was feeling ill and would be leaving shortly. Before leaving he reported that he was able to get the room at the Marin Community Foundation for the HRC Commission meeting on 9/29. Commissioner Durr left at 6:44.

1. APPROVAL OF TENTATIVE AGENDA:

Comm. Sievers, Comm. Aubin moved to remove LeeLee Thomas from agenda and add her to October's Agenda, as well as remove the Education Committee AM seconded, all ayes. AA moved to have the July minutes approved at the October meeting, AM seconded, all ayes. DS moved to approve minutes, DA seconded, all ayes.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Approval of Minutes: DS moved to remove Section 9G as there is not an actual Strategic Planning Committee. DA seconded, Comm AA moved to approve minutes w/ changes, AM seconded, all agreed.

3. TIME FOR PUBLIC EXPRESSION:

AM-suggested 2 minutes per commissioner at each meeting to have the opportunity to discuss topics of interest, provide time for dispute resolution, and items that pertain to the Commission but may not be on the Agenda. DS wants to have the Mission Statement read at the beginning of each meeting in order to remind commissioners why they are there and to hopefully pave the way for a collaborative environment. DA asked for concrete examples of how Roberts Rules are supposed to be applied. DS says that it is the spirit of the rule that matters-each commissioner be treated with respect. No motions made.

4. SPEAKERS:

AM wants to utilize support resources that are provided by the County. Introduced Chantel Walker, Manager of the Organizational Development and Training unit for the County of Marin.

A-Chantel Walker: 1. Can support mediation in staff, communication guidelines. Spoke briefly about the following Communications Guidelines: trying on concepts, saying it is ok to disagree, practice self-focus, practice both/and thinking, intent vs. impact, maintaining confidentiality and Respect. DS thanked Chantel for coming and asked her to return.

B- Mari Ann Rivers: Deputy County Counsel, presented on Robert's Rules of Order. Purpose of presentation is to give an overview. Stressed that County Counsel serves the County- the County is the client and therefore attorney/client privilege is only applicable when the commissioners are operating within the scope of their duties. Communications between Commissioners via text and email can be subpoenaed. Commissioners viewed the Brown Act video, which can be found at the following web address:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1P13gth-veo>.

Rivers specifically requested that the Commissioners to pay particular attention to what the primary purpose of the Commission is and to remember that they are acting on behalf of the group, which may not coincide with their personal opinions. ***Recommended that 5. Commissioner Open Forum be changed to "BOARD MEMBER MATTERS".



AA requested information about the legality of imposing term limits. Rivers, County Counsel attorney responded that it isn't unprecedented, but has to be reviewed by County Counsel and then approved by the BOS. She also stated that an ad hoc committee could be formed to further discuss the term limit option. If there are conflict of interest questions, Fair Political Practices Commission can advise you. When you are speaking at a meeting, be sure to articulate that you are not speaking on behalf of the Commission. *You can take something off of your agenda, but you cannot add something to it, unless there is a matter of great urgency (ie-unexpected deadline preceding future meeting).

AA asked about the 700 form and to verify whether or not it was necessary for the HRC. AA also inquired about the Action Item process. If there was an item that was not an action item, but 2/3 of the Commission wants to make it an action item, can it be done? Ms. Rivers responded that you should add it to the agenda again for the next meeting and making it an action item. Action items must be on the agenda, unless there is an urgency. It is mandated that the Public and other Commission members must be notified of what is on the agenda ahead of time.

DS asked question about quorum and email items—when does it become a meeting? Ms. Rivers advised to just avoid the situation entirely, regardless of intention. Work of Commission is in the meeting-you are working as a Board.

5. COMMISSIONER OPEN FORUM:

6. TREASURER'S REPORT: AA said he didn't have any information on the budget.

7. CHAIR'S REPORT/NEW ITEMS: No items.

8. STAFF REPORT: No updates.

9. COMMITTEE REPORTS/UPDATES:

A. MLK: AG reported that there is a committee of 4, Embassy Suites is available on the 22nd, but not the 14th. AG making a motion to hold MLK on January 22nd, DS seconded, unanimous.

B. Human Trafficking Event-2 events coming up- 1 is 9/14 and held by Soroptimists.

2nd event will be hosted by the Commission and to be held on 9/29. Invitations sent out to Bay Area HR Commissions, Human Trafficking will be the point of discussion. The location will be at the Marin Community Foundation—Hamilton, in Novato. Estimate of 15 attendees. DS and AM want to remove wording 'assault on affirmative action' on flyer. DA wants to have the forum focus on one subject, and thinks there are links between human trafficking and access to opportunity. DA made motion to amend current title of the event on 9/29 'assault on affirmative action' and maintain focus on human trafficking. AA seconded it, AM voted yes, DS and AG abstained. AA will provide lunch for event on the 9/29.

MOTION: to Adjourn: A. Ahmadi/D. Aubin 8:54pm, unanimous.

