

# Marin Human Rights Commission — October Drafted Minutes

Tuesday, October 11, 2022 — 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

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## Call to Order at 7:03 with quorum

**Present:** Stephany Barahona (SB), Sister Joan Hanna (SJH), Curtis Aikens (CA), Jeremy Portje (JP)

## Order of Business

*Call to Order and Roll Call*

### 1) Approval of Agenda and Minutes

- a) Adoption of the drafted Agenda for October 11, 2022 SJH/CA m/s/p
- b) Adoption of drafted Minutes for September 13, 2022 SJH/CA m/s/p

**Roger** – For each one of these items can make a motion for approval if there are no changes. Afterward have public comment.

## PUBLIC COMMENT

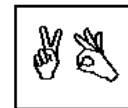
**Rodrigo Izquierdo** – (paraphrased) Did not see the minutes – abbreviated minutes – didn't see it. If I'm not showing, then your minutes are not correct, and you cannot approve them

**Eva Chrysanthe** – (paraphrased) Think you should do a better job with minutes. Important that it be recorded accurately. Believes BOS is corrupt. Walking into this with inherent conflict of interest. Commission seats should be selected by those who need representation the most.

**Roger** – Have something to add - We have minutes themselves but will also post recordings online. Files are too large to post in their current state, but will figure out the technology and post them.

## PUBLIC COMMENT

**Doug** – (paraphrased) can only see four of the commissioners and can only make a comment by raising my hand.



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**Eva Chrysanthe** – (paraphrased) echo Doug’s criticism about seeing who else is on the meeting. Also disagree with disabling the chat.

**Commissioner Portje** – Please connect your comments to the minutes

**Eva Chrysanthe** – (paraphrased) Please reconnect the chat

**Rodrigo Izquierdo**– (paraphrased) States that according to Brown Act public officials are supposed to accept criticism and viewpoints that are not agreeable to them. States that minutes are incomplete.

**SJH** – Motion to approve 11 pages of minutes

**CA** – Seconds motion to approve

**JP** – Want to respond to commissioners. Discuss if we would like detailed minutes in future.

## 2) Commissioner Announcements for Items Not on the Agenda

**JP** – Attended public events at College of Marin. Alert meeting attendees to Dias de los Muertes event. Public is invited to attend.

## 3) Public Comment on Items Not on the Agenda

*Open time for public expression. The Commission will take public comment (up to 3 minutes per speaker) on all items not appearing on the agenda during this portion of the regular meeting.*

**Eva Chrysanthe** – (paraphrased) States there is inherent conflict of interest w/ county appointed commissioners. Referenced Trump car rally and civilian oversight.

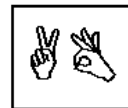
**Rodrigo Izquierdo** – (paraphrased) Agrees with what Eva Chrsanthe said about BOS. Believes there should be more attention should be paid to the brutality of police/sheriff department and recent police brutality incident. Believes there should be more outrage. Stated incident like this could happen in other parts of Marin and that training police is what is necessary.

**Roger** – Nancy Johnson has joined and been made co-host

**JP** – Mention of wanting to discuss AB1185 - As HRC – make a motion that HRC draft a letter to BOS – re: why we need military supplies when we are discussing police brutality

**Roger** – Reminder that in order to address items it needs to fall under what is already agendized. Can make general announcements, but can’t add an item to the agenda and then call for a vote. If there is a matter of urgency – can call a special meeting.

Cannot introduce, deliberate or discuss something that the public was not noticed of



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**JP** – moving on to item 4

## **Regular Business**

*The Commission will hold a discussion on an agenda item, at the end of the discussion, the Chair or Co-Chair will ask for public comment on that particular agenda item. The public will then have up to 2 minutes per speaker to speak on that particular agenda item before any action on the item is taken by the Commission.*

### **4) Election of Officers**

**JP** - With Sean McQuaid's resignation as chair, a new Chair needs to be decided

**SJH / SB** - Nominate Commissioner Porte as new HRC Chair

**JP** accepts nomination

**SJH** – Nominate SB as Vice Chair

**SB** - accepts nomination

### **PUBLIC Comment before voting**

**Eva Chrysanthe** – (paraphrased) Suggested delaying vote

**Rodrigo Izquierdo** – (paraphrased) Shared opinion that Commissioners should have time in their schedules to do HRC work more frequently than once per month meeting, that Commissioners should be available to do commission work on full time basis.

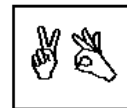
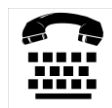
**JP** – no other Public Comment. Moving on to vote.

Unanimous approval of Commissioner Portje as Chair

Unanimous approval of Commissioner Barahona as Vice chair

### **5) HRC Responsiveness / Responsibilities (Commissioner Portje)**

**JP** - Make a motion to add recurring agenda item to allow public to bring issues to our attention that may be otherwise overlooked or that we are unaware of to increase responsiveness to members of the public.



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**SJH** – 1)Roger – Is recurring agenda item being proposed possible and 2<sup>nd</sup> part) Would you anticipate item(s) being brought forward would be discussed at that time & some action taken?

**JP** – per Brown Act we could not discuss, but could be added to agenda

**Roger** – You already have item public comment on items not on the agenda

If you were to add a separate agenda item – for people to talk a little more openly, you'd have to be mindful that you're taking that in and be mindful that if you want to add to future agenda, that's fine.

As JP said, you could not have any deliberation and would caution on how much you engage with that member of the public at that particular time. Can invite them to come back.

In that moment – be mindful of not violating the Brown Act.

We can discuss more offline

**JP** – Motion to have advocacy committee that would hear public issues and bring to the full board. If person makes a specific human right claim, how do we address that?

**Roger** – In the past we have had subcommittees or committees of the commission that were focused on specific topic/subject area. Not necessarily having a meeting – more of a committee meeting w/ particular member of the public or community and that committee would report back to the commission – and **that** (report back) would be the agenda item

Standing committee or ad hoc committee – Limits how you deal with it in the moment

Committees bring it to our attention – Typically members of the public will bring it to our attention through items not on the agenda

***You have that mechanism already***

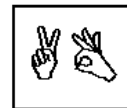
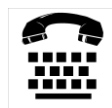
**Roger** –Public comment for items not on the agenda – can add more detail there to explain what the content is – in line w/Brown Act – so members of the public may have a better understanding – Time for public comment in this section is 3 mins, but it can be expanded at your discretion.

Same rules regarding members of the public apply to issues brought up during Items 'Not on the Agenda' section. Can answer/respond to basic questions around clarification, but **not** engaging in discussion/deliberation

If you set up committee (if there is not already one) – then nothing is stopping you from talking to a member of the public outside of a meeting - can do it right after the meeting to get more information

**JP** –Moving on to public comment

## **Public Comment on HRC Responsiveness / Responsibilities**



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**Rodrigo Izquierdo** – (paraphrased) BOS listens and will respond in a short manner only if needed – but not anything that is engaging. They discuss what they did since the last meeting. If they meet someone that relates to something in the agenda – they must disclose it to prevent a conflict of interest.

**Eva Chrysanthe** – (paraphrased) Stated Commissioner Portje asked for her support for this board and talked about his vision to give people a platform to bring forward their complaint. Stated commissioners are appointed by BOS and have little power and little training regarding the law and have an inherent conflict of interest.

6) **HRC Forums**  
(Commissioner Barahona / Portje)

**SB** – Want to build relationships and trust between HRC and community.  
Propose we have forums quarterly in MC, Rafael, West Marin and Novato to give the public the ability to ask questions of Commissioners (i.e. listening discussions throughout Marin County) to build that trust and engage people

**SB** – Motion to hold quarterly forums

**SJH** – request clarification – term forum and referencing listening sessions in previous years– those were held in various communities but were actually HRC meeting in which the listening session was embedded. Forum may be different than those monthly meetings and would like clarification.

Discussion around holding meetings in different locations throughout Marin on a quarterly basis

**Roger** – Any meeting in addition to the regularly scheduled one is considered “special meeting” would post it as required in advance and would follow an agenda.

Anytime there is a quorum, you would follow the items outlined in the Brown Act

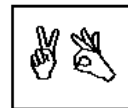
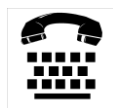
**JP** - We couldn't be able to discuss back & forth w/ presenter?

**Roger** – Could find out if there are members of public that 'd like to give presentation. Then you can engage in conversation because it has been agendized

Discussion around accessibility including translation, and hybrid or in person options. Clarifying questions around logistics.

**Roger** – We can address these questions offline regarding how this was done in the past, locations, accessibility, etc.

**JP** – Push further discussion & planning to next meeting



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**Roger** – No motion to vote on. Had discussion but didn't take an action.

Additional discussion around planning and timing of first of these meetings during first quarter 2023.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

**Rodrigo Izquierdo** – (paraphrased) These have been done in the past in the Canal, Marin City, West Marin and Novato...and were well attended at first. There are limitations - people share their problems but it is a listening session only – you can't solve them. The difference this time is better representation in the commission. Have a good representation to accomplish more this time. Referenced Sheriff wanting armored vehicles before timer ran out.

**Eva Chrysanthe** – (paraphrased) 2<sup>nd</sup> Rodrigo Izquierdo's comments. Stated that Commissioner Barahona's ideas are well intentioned but maybe not realistic. Shared regarding previous listening sessions for the county that allowed people to air grievances but without real changes. Stated that any potential change was paralyzed by conflict of interest because DA and BOS hold the power in the county.

- 7) Special Meeting to Draft Annual Work Plan  
(Commissioner Portje)

**JP** – Move that we postpone this to next meeting due to timing & importance

Any objections to postponement?

No objections – postponed

- 8) Introduction of New Commissioners

Gloria Castillo is newest Commissioner

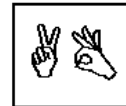
Other Commissioners include:

Jeremy Portje

Stephany Barahona

Curtis Aikens

Nancy Johnson



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Sister Joan Hanna

- 9) Report on AB 1185  
(Commissioner Aikens)

**CA** – Citizens working group set to meet 10/18. Next week Jamilah Jordan will give report out. NACOLE is engaged. Citizen group will put together a plan and HRC will report back to this commission.

Questions @ Roger – Email from Jamilah asking if there is certain information related to the working group in relation to AB1185. Will HRC be ok with having some of this information posted on the HRC website.

Would like website to be the home for updates and information about this process

**CA** – Do we need to vote on this?

**Roger** – This is not on the agenda. Would get more info from her first.

**CA** – If we need to call a special meeting, we could do that (24 hrs)

Other questions comments?

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

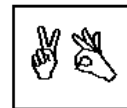
**Rodrigo Izquierdo**– (paraphrased) Commissioners Aikens and Portje would like a brief report of what you are doing (prior to police brutality incident) and expand it to include things that develop. As things progress & develop, would like them included as examples in your presentation(s).

**CA** –Hope to get the whole county involved in this process of oversight including municipalities that can opt in

**Eva Chrysanthe** – (paraphrased) Troubling that you would have to rely on cities to opt in because you are put together by the county. Trusting to opt in in unrealistic. AB 1185 already limited. Enlisting ‘top cop’ to be involved in civilian oversight is missing the point.

- 10) Social Media Update  
(Commissioner Portje)

**JP** – Following Commissioner McQuaid’s resignation, Commissioner Portje will be taking over website update



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## 11) Adjournment

No motion needed

Meeting adjourned at 9:04



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