

Marin Human Rights Commission —February Drafted Minutes
Tuesday, February 14, 2023 — 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83566778759?pwd=OTBjb1V6Q2RMa0tjNGZHWiVYY09xZz09>

Meeting ID: 835 6677 8759

Passcode: 611481

Dial by your location +1 408 638 0968 US (San Jose) +1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

Call to Order at 7:02 with quorum

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

Order of Business

Call to Order and Roll Call

1) Approval of Agenda and Minutes

- | | |
|---|--------|
| a) Adoption of the drafted Agenda for February 14, 2023
<i>m/s/p</i> | SB/SJH |
| b) Adoption of drafted Minutes for December 13, 2022 | SJH/SB |

PUBLIC COMMENT

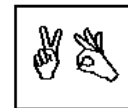
Eva Chrysanthe –The relationship between the DA and BOS was misstated. You do not attend BOS meetings. DA attends to get approval for items.

Bill Hale – BH states he follows a number of commissions and boards. There is not a requirement for recording, and it is discretionary.

Rodrigo Izquierdo – I the minutes for last meeting, SJH abstained because she had not read the minutes. If you did not read the minutes, you must abstain per the Brown Act.

CA – We take public comments to heart.

CA visited the Marin County Jail, taking the route that a person would take if they were being booked into the jail, and it was very anxiety producing. CA asked to extend this visit to the rest of the commissioners. There is a welfare basket for those incarcerated in the jail. There is an area to get natural sunlight every day. More money is needed for improvements. CA saw every part but did not go into the cells and did not speak with those held there. When they transition



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back into society, there is help for those who are reintegrating back into society. They are given clothes and things of that nature, vouchers for meals at restaurants and at least two healthy meals per day. Thank you, Eva, for bringing this to our attention.

SJH – none

SB – Legal Aid of Marin Forum - knowing tenants’ rights. Participated in community fundraising – 400 Canal Street tenants – seven tenants lost their homes, and the fundraising was for those tenants.

JP - 2/21 Thursday- pop-up clinic on Larkspur Street in San Rafael; West Marin community food pantry 1-5 p.m.; Marin County plate 3:30-6:30 101 Donohue Street in Sausalito – clean sweep – expunge records. Open mic @ the multicultural center in San Rafael 2/24/2023.

3) Public Comment on Items Not on the Agenda

Eva - concerned about Aikens comments of the jail – knew that Aikens had not investigated about the jail – “abuses and deaths” Isolation cell was not an isolation cell – it was a safety cell. Seemed to be selling the sheriffs excuses. Have met sheriff – extremely affable. Mr. Aikens does not know what line he is being sold because he has not done the research. Aikens & Portje – brought forward by Judy Arnold – BOS as a whole endorse. DA charged Matteo and not officer - “launder the reputation of law enforcement”

Bill Hale - Ask the inmates.

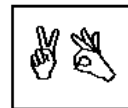
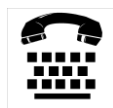
Would like and support a time change for this meeting.

Sent an article previously – should get work from police department to a civilian agency. Difficult time coming up with the idea of the paramedic. Not about defund the police but resize the police with more duties going to other people and less to police department.

Jason Sarris – has been to jail a couple times – highlight that when you’re in your cell it is 23 hrs. a day with only 1 hr. free time. There should be a chance for people to get out for more than one hour. It is not consistent timing every day and it is anxiety producing. The jail used to have a library – can’t even get a book to read to better yourself. There is no literature in the building. Even prisons have libraries.

Can’t really work out. Minimum is one hour, and it should be more.

Rodrigo Izquierdo – would like it if we could conduct ourselves like other HRC meetings. Conduct ourselves like BOS. Katie Rice takes a beating and does not respond. You are



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supposed to not comment, but just listen to public comment, otherwise you are not being effective. Still not following the Brown Act. Follow procedures.

Agenda – the ids are different, and passwords are different – how do you expect that ids & passwords have changed – how do you expect people to participate? That is HR’s problem.

JP – We will be in meeting in person beginning next month.

Regular Business

4) Introduction of New Commissioners

none

5) Budget Increase

Presented by Commissioner Aikens

Want to justify increasing our budget to do the work. A \$7k budget could buy supplies to help those incarcerated to reintegrate and to help those unhoused. I want us to think about projects we can use to better the human condition that are in Marin County and think about what we could do for kids who don’t have late night or early morning meal.

SJH – was in touch w/office of finance (county) and budget that we have is 13,500 – previous years – constant contact – allowing commission to relate to website – go daddy.com. Video license - Need to get back in touch with Shaun. We want to continue to keep licensing if we are going to keep website and keep licenses current and not let them lapse. Budget – concur that it fits into scope of HRC and is worthy. Will try to get in touch with Shawn and these expenses.

JP – thank you – same for your item Aikens – do you have specific dollar amounts and specific programs?

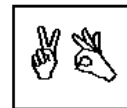
CA - I have ideas I would like to bring forward - food insecurity issues.

PUBLIC COMMENT

EVA – merged items 2 & 3 – thought they were responding to item 2 when it was 3

SB – There was an answer. Roger had responded previously

Rodrigo Izquierdo – budget – would like you to look into feasibility of keeping ZOOM for your meetings otherwise we will not get the same people who currently attend. Money could solve this issue (under budget item) and what it would take to continue with zoom for the public. It will



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be the demise of the HRC as we know it. Asking that you put aside money to make this happen. Keep public participation.

Jason Sarris – My understanding this meeting is going back to in person because of the Brown Act.

Roger Crawford – It is not a legal requirement anymore to have Zoom and is an option at your discretion. There is no longer a hybrid requirement as of March.

Mark 8:00pm – BOS meeting august 9 – vote – reapproved discretionary boards that HRC – have to record their meetings

6) Committee Reports (1185AB)

Presented by Commissioner Aikens

Getting close – focus groups and outreach committees. One month away from putting forth recommendations to give to supervisors. Working on the draft, meeting tomorrow night and hoping to have report ready by March.

SB – frequency of report out to public

CA - report out comes each month here in HRC.

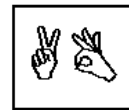
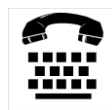
Report from equity office – Jamilah Jordahn.

SJH – contact? Jamilah Jordahn

EVA – It was pointed out that with civilian oversight in LA – pressure off DA – jail deaths increased every year following that. It was claimed that DA as elected official did not report to BOS. This claim is false – DA has to go to BOS to get budgets approved – BOS can ask for investigations.

Rodrigo Izquierdo – Sherriff oversight committee seems to have solved the impossible – curious about committee – who is it? Is it Marin City? Canal? Who are these people? Once you include it in the report, it is already done. More detail should be provided about who is participating. There is lots of information on county website and regular reporting in this meeting.

Jason Sarris – thank HRC for going after AB 1185 – will have some teeth with subpoena power. We have to press the issues when we feel it is necessary. Focus outreach groups have done a good job reaching out – focus group got about 10 campers in Novato. Push back on



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Judy Arnold – she was first one from BOS who publicly stated she wanted oversight committee – 1st one who went on record to say this. You are doing a fine job.

(7) Discuss a Recommendation to the BOS to Evaluate & Change Criteria in which to Activate the County’s Emergency Shelter System

Presented by Commissioner Portje

JM – recommendation to BOS – Work with a few other commissions to develop humane criteria to activate an emergency shelter. Six Points open & activate shelter. People are still required to sleep outside in inhumane conditions. Freezing/frost/close to freezing temps – shelter is not activated. Discussion & letter to BOS to write a recommendation

CA – excellent idea – budget increase – these are kinds of things would love to activate – if we could help and have funds behind us that we can spend in a humane way to uplift the people of Marin County.

JP – not putting forward that we as a commission decide the criteria but put this to the BOS.

MOTION – would like Marin County HRC to write letter of recommendation to BOS to work with lived experience and to find a more humane set of conditions to activate a shelter.

SJH – would like to know differences between municipalities and county – to see what the criteria are and how they are similar/different.

JP – Criteria for activation is on the county’s website.

ASKING that they be updated – not just OES and LE – but with commission of people who have lived experience.

SB – for criteria to be more humane

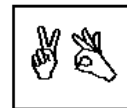
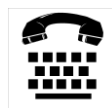
JP - The phone still has the information recorded from January and the last storm.

MOTION – HRC write letter to BOS – w/lived experience

Portje/SJH

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jason Sarris – criteria throughout the county – cities adhere to that criterion – sent out via email to service providers throughout Marin. Getting the message out is the main thing. Winter weather is severe and would like the shelter to open all winter, or at least ease restrictions and open at least one day avant & après – so people can avoid being wet.



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A man died in front of 7-11 last week – definitely cold – also a shelter open for the winter because of price tag.

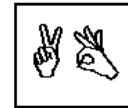
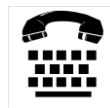
Rodrigo Izquierdo – history of County of Marin – pre-pandemic raging fires up north & down south – air pollution that had never been seen before – caused breathing problems. County opened up some places in 2015 or so. The county voted to give country club 1.5 m dollars – on the condition they would open in times of catastrophe. Someone should ask why they are not opening and never have. This is in rich area in Katie Rice’s district.

Eva Chrysanthe – meager this request is – makes me curious if commissioners as private citizens helped to get the emergency shelters open during the storms. Deaths don’t necessarily happen immediately but build up over time. Veterans were not on focus group. Could not get support for homeless camps. Winter shelter should be permanent shelter.

Mark Dale – what Portje is putting forward is brilliant & so important - #2 in wealth – need to have help for homeless population. Major scene on B street – when the death happened – support this action. This is part of HRC purview with action like this.

VOTE on motion – unanimous

8) Adjournment – adjourn the meeting at 8:31



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