
HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

City and County of San Francisco

SAN FRANCISCO HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

Retreat Minutes

February 23, 2023 5:00 PM

ROSTER OF COMMISSIONERS

Karen Clopton, Chairperson
Ann Champion-Shaw, Vice-Chairperson
Vanessa R. Aquino, Commissioner
Jayson Johnson, Commissioner
Mark Kelleher, Commissioner
Jason Pellegrini, Commissioner
Leah Pimentel, Commissioner
Irene Yee Riley, Commissioner
Michael Sweet, Commissioner
Joseph Sweiss, Commissioner

Sheryl Evans Davis, EdD
Executive Director

For more information, contact the Commission Secretary at 415-252-2500
Agenda and other information are available on the HRC website: www.sfgov.org/sfhumanrights

Retreat was called to order at 1:30pm.

Ramaytush Ohlone Land Acknowledgement – **Jason Pellegrini**.

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL OF COMMISSIONERS

Present: Karen Clopton, Irene Yee Riley, Ann Champion Shaw, Michael Sweet, Jason Pellegrini, Mark Kelleher, Joseph Sweiss

Absent: Jayson Johnson, Leah Pimentel, Vanessa R. Aquino,
Meeting was called to order with 7 Commissioners present.

2. DISCUSSION WITH DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION AND REPRESENTATIVE FROM CITY ATTORNEY’S OFFICE (*Discussion Item*)

Public Comment

Vice Chair Shaw presented on the “Four Agreements” and established consensus on agenda ground rules.

Director Dr. Sheryl Davis spoke to growth of Department. She addressed desire for Commission and the Commissioners to align activities and activities in the community with those of the Commission staff and Divisions.

Noted several positions (10) remain open and that a new Community Engagement Director is being sought since current Director is changing roles within the Department. ORE has 3 positions open and the HRC is seeking to receive approval (funding) for a director position that has a classification appropriate for the role and responsibility the person will fill. SHARP is hiring an assistant to aid the team. DKI is well staffed, and CRD is now strong with Stevon Cook on board. Amelia Martinez-Bankhead is now the Director of Operations. The HRC will also be hiring a CFO as well as filling other open positions.

Commissioner Riley asked for a detailed organizational chart when it is available.

Alicia Cabrera J.D. from City Attorney’s Office introduced Sarah Fabian J.D. who will be the HRC’s new point of contact and support from the City Attorney’s Office. She addressed several key points:

She addressed the governing principals and supportive/guiding documents Commissioners should be familiar with. The HRC was approved by the voters and is governed by a Charter (Charter § 4.107), Admin Code 12.A.

Noted that Employees of the Human Rights Commission and other City Employees may make public comment during Commission meetings. They must state that they are speaking as private citizens; this must be stated clearly. If they were to speak as a member of the Department, they would need Director approval. They must not be on “city time” when speaking.

Anonymous speakers are permitted; you cannot require a person to identify themselves though you can ask their name when inviting them to speak.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment on this item.

3. GOAL FOR 2023, COMMISSIONERS AGENDA (*Discussion Item*)

Commissioners speak to their vision for the 2023 agenda topics and presentations.

Public Comment

Commissioner Sweiss: Further work with the LGBTQI Advisory Council. Follow up on FTE position to support the AC.

Commissioner Kelleher: Work with LGBTQI AC on restructure of Advisory Committees. Develop means to aid Community in their understanding of applying to City for funding. Would like to work with DKI and support grant funding.

Jason Pellegrini: Would like to help with AC. Do more work with CRD and help get word out in regard to their work/services. Would also like to make HRC website more user friendly and devise a layout that highlights and promotes services/functions of the HRC.

Commissioner Sweet: Follow up on outstanding MTA concerns and look to bring HRC Commission meetings to community (in person) locations this year.

Commissioner Riley: Continue work and support of the Stand Together SF and Campaign for Solidarity initiatives. Would like to see the Art Campaign continue in 2023 and work on outreach to garner more application for remaining RFP78 funding; would like to be engaged in review process.

Vice Chair Shaw: Work with SHARP, African American Reparations Advisory Committee, and DKI.

Chair Clopton: Listened to Commissioner’s goals (these will be recapped during Commission meeting in evening). Noted the Commission will align goals and activities with those of the Director and HRC. Would like to do more community outreach; more time in community; take the Commission meetings into community spaces. Ensure Commission meeting agenda for the year meets charter expectations on reporting from HRC Divisions. Ensure SHARP

presents in appropriate month. Asked if a Reparations (committee report) FAQ can be generated to aid them in answering questions? Have Commission look at furthering work to address Asian hate issues. Asked how to support final budget to ensure unfilled/needed positions within the HRC are included and approved. Would like a presentation created on "Know Your Rights."

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment on this item.

4. SETTING PRIORITIES AND ACTION PLAN TO ACCOMPLISH GOALS SET DURING RETREAT

Insufficient time remained for this item to be acted on; a discussion of the Retreat outcomes is scheduled for evening's Commission Meeting.

5. ADJOURNMENT Meeting adjourned at 4:25pm.

Transcription of the meeting minutes are available upon request to the Commission Secretary, john.mcknight@sfgov.org.