
HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

City and County of San Francisco

SAN FRANCISCO HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

Draft Meeting Minutes

January 11, 2024 5:00 PM

ROSTER OF COMMISSIONERS

Leah Pimentel, Chair
Hasib Emran, Vice Chair
Rodrigo Durán, Commissioner
Jayson Johnson, Commissioner
Mark Kelleher, Commissioner
Jason Pellegrini, Commissioner
Irene Yee Riley, Commissioner
Michael Sweet, 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:

<https://www.sf.gov/sfhrc>

The meeting was called to order by acting-Chair Sweet at 5:15 pm.

Ramaytush Ohlone Land Acknowledgment – **Commissioner Riley.**

1. 2:43 CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL OF COMMISSIONERS

Present: Rodrigo Durán, Hasib Emran, Irene Yee Riley, Jason Pellegrini, Leah Pimentel, Jayson Johnson, Michael Sweet, Mark Kelleher

Absent: none

The meeting was called to order with seven Commissioners present; Commissioner Johnson arrived at 5:20pm.

2. 3:23 GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT (Discussion Item)

Members of the public may address the Commission on matters that are within the Commission’s jurisdiction and are not on today’s agenda.

There was no comment on this item

3. 4:31 ELECTION OF THE SAN FRANCISCO HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION CHAIRPERSON AND VICE CHAIRPERSON SERVING DURING THE 2024 CALENDAR YEAR (Discussion and Action Item)

San Francisco Human Rights Commission bylaws, Article III, Section 2, require the Human Rights Commission to elect a Chairperson and Vice Chairperson during the first meeting of each calendar year who will serve a one-year term.

Public Comment

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment on this item.

Commissioner Sweet addressed the Commissioners present and called for nominations for Chair, San Francisco Human Rights Commission 2024. Commissioner Pellegrini nominated Commissioner Leah Pimentel for Chair; nomination was seconded by Commissioner Emran. No other nominations were made.

Commissioner Pimentel accepted the nomination and addressed the Commission stating she would like to serve as Chair for the Human Rights Commission. She noted this is the third Commission she had served on, and she has a history of bringing individuals together and

working on strategic plans to help enhance organizations and committees to do their work . She added she would appreciate the Commissioners' Vote. Commissioner Sweet called for a vote; the vote was unanimous in favor of Commissioner Pimentel.

Commissioner Sweet called for a five minute recess as the new Chair settled in.

Chair Pimentel: Called for nominations for Vice Chair of the San Francisco Human Rights Commission for 2024. Commissioner Riley nominated Commissioner Hasib Emran for Vice Chair; nomination was seconded by Commissioner Kelleher. No other nominations were made.

Commissioner Emran congratulated the Chair on her new position, accepted the nomination, and stated his desire to serve.

Chair Pimentel called for a vote; the vote was unanimous in favor of Commissioner Emran.

4. 19:01 ADOPTION OF THE MEETING MINUTES FROM THE DECEMER 14, 2023 MEETINGS
(Discussion and Action Item)

Review and anticipated adoption of minutes from the Commission's December 14, 2023 Meeting Minutes.

Public Comment

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment on this item.

COMMISSIONER COMMENT/ACTION

Motion to adopt December 14, 2023 Meeting minutes as submitted: 1st Commissioner Riley, 2nd Commissioner Johnson. Motion carried by unanimous consent.

5. 22:25 THE HEALING WELL *(Discussion and Possible Action Item)*

Presentation by staff of The Healing WELL to share details of their programs and the impact of their new center on the community.

Presentation: Kathy Curran, Director, The Healing WELL

Public Comment

Note: This was Item 6 on the agenda; it was moved up as the speaker for Item 5 was not yet present.

Director Curran addressed the Commission outlining the history and mission of the Healing WELL in the Tenderloin district. The Healing WELL arose from a program at St. Vincent De Paul's in the early 2000s and later rested along with the Faithful Fools group. This past year, the organization has found a new and larger space to expand their work and their mission. Director Curran noted her organizations work is centered around building resiliency, physical , emotional and spiritual, for the people that come to her Center in hopes this foundation allows them to form the strength and will to seek the next level of fundamental care appropriate for them which could b sobriety (harm reduction , housing, employment, or more.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment on this item.

Commissioner Pellegrini thanked the Director and noted his non-profit works with The Healing WELL, and his staff appreciates their partnership. Excited to hear about the new space and the additional programs being offered in this now larger location.

Commissioner Durán Congratulated the Director on the expansion of their footprint, and noted his organization is working on a Cultural Arts Healing Center, and asked if there was a needs assessment conducted to find out what people (users of their services) wanted to see when activation the space?

Director Curran stated they relied heavily on their leaders and have used surveys as guidance over the years. And she shared that “they are in a process of evolution” and they ask people in current programs what they need now; She commented that surveys can be overdone and they are careful about over-surveying.

6. 45:01 LUNAR NEW YEAR EVENTS (Discussion Item)

Presentation by Asian American & Pacific Islander (APA Heritage Foundation Board President on the coming Lunar New Year celebrations and events for 2024, the Year of the Dragon.

Presentation: Claudine Cheng, Board President, The APA Heritage Foundation

Public Comment

Note: This was Item 5 on the agenda; it was moved as the speaker for this Item was not present earlier.

President Cheng noted the Lunar New Year (LNY) starts February 10 and this is the Year of the Dragon, the Wood Dragon. Noted events to pay attention to are:

- February 8 – Mayor unveiling of the Year of the Dragon Stamp

- February 13 – Drumbeats-Heartbeats: Communities as One, a Joint Celebration of the Lunar New Year and Black History Month
- Feb 21 – City Official LNY Celebration at City Hall
- Feb 24 – Chinese New year Parade
- Noted that May is API Heritage Month and the kickoff to this 20th annual, month-long celebration will be May 1 at the Herbst Theatre

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment on this item.

Commissioner Riley asked about date for Lunar New Year Parade; President Cheng noted it is on Saturday Feb 24.

Director Davis offered her thanks and appreciation for the work President Cheng and Commissioner Yee Riley have done in the community, and President Cheng's support for events that HRC has led or been a part of in the API community, such as Stand Together SF and the Black/Asian Cookout held last year.

Commissioner Johnson asked about a picture held in City Hall last year with Asian and Black leaders; is this happening again this year? Secretary McKnight will track down information and share it out.

7. 55:12 COMMISSIONER ACTIVITIES IN THE COMMUNITY *(Discussion Item)*

Commissioners update the public on activities they have participated in and any upcoming events.

Public Comment

Commissioner Johnson This week is the JP Morgan healthcare industry Conference; there is an exhibit by Andre Morgan of his photography titled “Torn Asunder” dispelling myths of Black bodies. Exhibit will be on display next month.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment on this item

8. 57:25 ADJOURNMENT Meeting adjourned at 6:13 pm.

Motion to Adjourn: 1st Commissioner Riley, 2nd Commissioner Sweet

Transcription of the meeting minutes are available upon request to the Commission Secretary.