
HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

City and County of San Francisco

*Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer,
Intersex Advisory Committee*

SAN FRANCISCO HUMAN RIGHTS DIVISION

Draft Meeting Minutes

November 22, 2022

5:30 p.m.

COMMISSION ROSTER

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

Sheryl Evans Davis, EdD
Executive Director

Meeting was called to order at 5:30pm

Michelle Meow read the Raymatush Ohlone Land Acknowledgement

1. 02:32 ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS

In attendance: Joe Adkins, Michael Appel, Keith Baraka, Hilary Burdge, Donal Godfrey, Timothy Hampton, Niki Khanna, Michelle Meow, Michael Nguyễn, Rick Oculito, Okan Sengun, JoJo Ty, Lisa Williams. Nick Clements arrived later in the evening.

Absent: Vincent Crisostomo, Michael Discepola, Akira Jackson, Michelle Cunningham (TAJA's Coalition proxy), Roger Kuhn, Monica Paz, Nicole Santamaria, April Silas

2. 04:44 FINDINGS TO ALLOW TELECONFERENCE MEETINGS UNDER CALIFORNIA GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54953(e) *(Discussion and Possible Action)*

The Commission will discuss and possibly adopt a resolution setting forth findings required under Assembly Bill 361 that would allow the Commission and its subcommittees to hold meetings remotely according to the modified Brown Act teleconferencing provisions set forth in AB 361.

Presentation: Cathy Mulkey Meyer, San Francisco Human Rights Commission

Public Comment

There was no public comment on this item.

Joe Adkins moved to allow Teleconferenced Meetings Under California Government Code Section 54953(e). Michael Appel Seconded.

The motion was adopted by acclimation.

3. 6:06 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 public comment on this item

4. 6:27 ADOPTION OF THE AUGUST 22, 2022 MEETING MINUTES *(Action Item)*

Review and anticipated adoption of minutes from the Advisory Committee's August 22, 2022 Meeting.

Public Comment

Michael Appel moved to approve the August 22, 2022 meeting minutes as submitted.

Donal Godfrey seconded the motion.

The August 22, 2022 meeting minutes were accepted by acclimation.

7:38 Vice Chair Swiss amended the agenda order to hear Item 6.

6. **7:38 UPDATE FROM TRANS-YOUTH SERVING ORGANIZATIONS** (*Discussion Item*)

Time for community to share support and safety needs of the Trans-youth serving organizations.

Presentation: Michael Appel, Member, LGBTQI+ Advisory Committee

Laura Lala Chavez, Executive Director, LYRIC

Joseph Sweiss, Vice Chair, San Francisco Human Rights Commission

Public Comment 

Member Michael Appel requested help from the City and County of San Francisco because LYRIC is receiving three terroristic bomb threats, April 29, May 23, and October 17, 2022, in an attempt to force the organization to stop providing gender affirming care to Transgender Youth and Young Adults. **Member Michael Appel:** Brought this issue to the Human Rights Commission to agendaize this item during this LGBTQI+ Advisory Committee meeting.

After the April 29, 2022 threat, LYRIC started working with SFPD and other law enforcement agencies. The threats are specific: Bible verses were recited, followed by calls for violence and then a specific bomb threat. After reaching out to other organizations providing gender affirming care in San Francisco and the broader Bay Area, they realized other entities were receiving the same type of threat of violence. Member Appel, and Director Lala-Chavez coordinated meetings attended by Mayor London Breed's Office, Supervisor Mandelman's office, the Office of Transgender Initiatives, San Francisco Police Department, San Francisco Unified School District, Department of Public Health, University of California at San Francisco, Human Rights Commission, the Dimensions Clinic, Lyon Martin Community Health Services, California State Senator Weiner's office, Roma Guy, Reverend Megan Rohrer, and Huckleberry Youth Services. The coalition worked together sharing best practices and resources, safety updates, align response to the city-wide threats. The coalition secured emergency safety funding from the Mayor's Office and through the Board of Supervisors annual budget process to help LGBTQ+ organizations serving Transgender Transitional Age Youth and Young Adults build technical infrastructure, implement safety practices to be better prepared for threats. Longer-Term funding asks include public relations consultations, community ambassadors, and hiring SAP threat consultant so the coalition will work together and create a city-wide mechanism of support, including the District Attorney's office and Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Director, Gael Lala-Chavez: Attended the meeting to answer questions from the Advisory Committee and collaborate with Advisory Committee members because these types of threats will not end with the Anti-Transgender legislation being passed around the country. The Director was attending weekly calls with SFPD, they have done walk-thru's led by David Burke, to identify weaknesses. They were also discussing expanding community ambassador programs and were in discussions about training with SFPD on active shooter drills and other security training.

Vice Chair Sweiss: Asked if there is a timeline on mechanisms to provide safety, enforce laws, and prevent more harassment and attacks.

Joe Adkins: Historically, the Butterfly Brigade was a community protection effort, whistles were handed out at bars and restaurants in the Castro, and when any sort of safety incidents happened, community knew to respond to the whistle - an elevated neighborhood watch. Perhaps re-establishing a group like that could happen, relative to the community ambassador program.

Director Lala-Chavez: LYRIC has reached out to the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence, Castro Community on Patrol, Planned Parenthood, the ACLU, and other organizations that have experienced this type of attack from fundamentalist religious groups for advice. For every event, LYRIC needs community ambassadors, security personnel, and then a level of technical expertise for cybersecurity.

Commissioner Mark Kelleher: He has been a long-time supporter of LYRIC in many capacities, this is particularly horrifying and upsetting because LYRIC is a 100% LGBTQI+ serving and staffed organization, focused on providing the safest space for young LGBTQI+ folks, and 50% of folks served are Transgender. LYRIC is a lifesaving refuge that must have the City's full support to implement and maintain security measures.

As a Human Rights Commissioner, he also served on a committee that worked with a coalition of organizations and developed a city-wide study to determine the threat of violence prevention issues impacting the LGBTQI + community, and publish recommendations including potential new programming and transformational grants supporting existing safety programs.

Member Michael Appel: Interested in connecting with Commissioner Kelleher to discuss.

Member Hillary Burdge: Thanked Member Appel for bringing this to the committee and will support any efforts made. Thanked Director Lala-Chavez for their leadership and providing services and support to Queer youth in general and providing safe spaces and support in these moments when threats of violence are more direct and visceral.

Member Rick Oculito: Shared that Our Family Coalition has received more threatening phone calls. Offered collaboration on how to support youth and families as these threats increase nationally. Advised that OFC received advice from the ACLU that no one representing the organization outside the facility should travel alone, as well as taking other measure to protect their personal safety.

Member Michael Nguyen: Suggested there should be a grass roots awareness campaign, simply because San Francisco is a national target and other organizations may be experiencing the same threats, and are suffering in silence. Asked if anyone was creating a packet or list of recommended safety procedures.

Member Joe Adkins: Recommended immediately contacting members of the Board of Supervisors, and continue working with the three members of the Board of Supervisors who are part of the LGBTQI+ community: Supervisor Mandelman, Supervisor Dorsey, and Supervisor Engardio's offices.

Member Donal Godfrey: Expressed support for everyone's efforts to improve security. He noted that historically, when other organizations have used these same tactics it's best not to elevate the attack publicly and fight hate with love.

There was no public comment on this item.

5. 47:46 HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION LGBTQI+ ADVISORY COMMITTEE UPDATES

(Discussion Item)

Quarterly update on policy and programming initiated through the LGBTQI+ Advisory Committee and supported by Human Rights Commission staff.

Presentation: Joseph Sweiss, Vice Chair, San Francisco Human Rights Commission

Jude Diebold, Investigator, Civil Rights Division

Brittni Chicuata, Director, Economic Justice Division, San Francisco Human Rights Commission

Cathy Mulkey Meyer, Commission Secretary, San Francisco Human Rights Commission

Public Comment

Drag Laureate of San Francisco presented by Member Michael Nguyen: Member Nguyen brought the idea of a Drag Laureate to the Advisory Committee after reading about West Hollywood pursuing the creation of a Drag Laureate in the Bay Area Reporter. He, Vice Chair Sweiss, Victor Ruiz-Cornejo from the Mayor London Breed's Office, Michelle Jeffries from the SF Public Library, Arts Commission, Entertainment Commission, Sister Roma fo The Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence, folks from the SF Transgender District have met to create the first Drag Laureate program in the nation. The Inaugural Drag Laureate will receive \$55,000 for an 18 month term.

Cathy Mulkey Meyer: Thanked Member Nguyen, Vice Chair Sweiss and recognized the support from Devi Zinzuvadia, her colleague from the Human Rights Commission for their efforts. The timeline presented during the meeting was eventually amended. Timeline as of November, 2022.

- Applications released on November 17, 2022, sent to the AC.
- Applications due January 16, 2023.
- Steering Committee is meeting next week.

Provided links to:

- Flyer & Instagram announcement
- Application – PDF and Electronic Link

Vice Chair Joseph Sweiss: Thanked Michael Nguyen for their leadership, staff, and the Mayor's Office and SF Public Library for their support. Asked members to share out the applications.

Updates to Gender Definitions, Age, Administrative Code 12A, B, and C, Jude Diebold presented.

Jude confirmed that the Board of Supervisors unanimously approved the ordinance to amend the LGBTQ definitions and the San Francisco administrative codes 12 A, B, C. They posted a link to an article in the Bay Area Reporter.

Vice Chair Joseph Sweiss: Discussed moving forward in 2023. Reviewed a very simple timeline for budget process. The Department was committed to funding a position supporting the LGBTQI+ initiatives and advisory committee. Discussed the work done in subcommittees, how to engage more community members in the subcommittee work. Asked members to bring specific budget asks from each CBO seat, to frame the future budget advocacy work.

Member Michael Appel: Will support bringing in more community to participate in the subcommittee level.

Member Hillary Burdge: How will subcommittee meetings be organized? Will the group be self organized?

Vice Chair Sweiss recommended sending out proposed dates for quarterly Advisory Committee meetings, and one subcommittee meeting each quarter. He discussed the need to compress subcommittee meetings, changes to the Advisory Committee roster - not to include elected officials. Did not codify specific terms for the Advisory Committee.

Michael Ngyuen asked how long term limits would be for each seat, what type of rotation will occur.

Hillary Burdge discussed bringing in other CBO's or members to fill naturally occurring vacancies.

There was no public comment on this item.

7. 1:30:01 HOUSING ELEMENT (Discussion Item)

Presentation of the most recent iteration of San Francisco's Housing Element
Presentation: Cathy Mulkey Meyer

Cathy Mulkey Meyer: the original presenter from the Mayor's Office of Housing had to go on medical leave. Due to time constraints, a link was provided in the chat. They reported that the City and County of San Francisco was required by law to create 82,000 housing units within the next 8 years. The State of California did not believe the first draft of the plan could be implemented, so they were asking for revisions.

There was no public comment on this item.

**8. 1:33:56 REVIEW THE LGBTQI+ ADVISORY COMMITTEE BUDGET AND POLICY TRACKER
(Discussion Item)**

Review the LGBTQI+ Advisory Committee budget and policy tracker to identify new and ongoing priorities for the 2023-2024 fiscal year.

Presentation: Joseph Swiess, Vice Chair, San Francisco Human Rights Commission

Public Comment

Item 5 discussion incorporated a review of the advisory committee budget and policy tracker as part of the discussion, so the chair moved to the next item.

There was no public comment on this item.

9. 1:34:45 ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES IN THE COMMUNITY (Discussion Item)

Advisory Committee Members update the public on activities they have participated in and any upcoming events.

Public Comment

Due to time constraints, members agreed to send the Secretary any information about upcoming events.

There was no public comment on this item.

10. 1:34:57 ADJOURNMENT