

Human Rights Commission

October 16, 2008

DRAFT Minutes

Commissioners Present

Robert Sippel
Robert Bailey
Tahir Anwar
Raji Bains
Vanessa Dao Burbach
Dr. Calvin Gill
John Marienthal
David Parker
Edward Walker

Commissioners Absent

Raj Bhanot
Karen Elaine Davis (Excused)
Qi Deng

Council Liaison

Kathy Duong

Staff

Margarita Mendoza – City Manager's Office
Patricia Deignan – City Attorney's Office

1. **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m.

2. **Orders of the Day & Agenda Approval**

By motion of Commissioner Parker, seconded by Commissioner Bailey, the Orders of the Day and Agenda was unanimously approved (Yes: 9; No: 0).

3. **Approval of Minutes**

By motion of Commissioner Bailey, seconded by Commissioner Parker the August 21, 2008 minutes were unanimously approved (Yes: 9; No: 0).

4. **Oral Petitions**

None.

5. **Standing Reports**

a) Council Liaison Report – Councilmember Chu invites all Commissioners to the Ridge Trail Celebration at Penitencia Creek Park on October 25, 2008.

b) Human Relations Liaison Report – Commissioner Bains reported on the successful Human Relations Open House event and recruitment of Commissioners. Commissioner Bains also spoke about the Jail Observer Program and tour at the County's Main Jail that can be arranged through the County's Human Relations Office.

c) San Jose Police Department Liaison Report – Lt. Esquivel informed the Commission that future SJPD Citizens Academy would have to be included in budget requests. At this time, there are no Citizen Academies planned.

d) Public Safety Oversight Committee – None.

e) Staff Report – The Human Rights Commission webpage with agendas and minutes is now active.

6. Discussion and Action Agenda Items

6 a. Amendment of HRC Bylaws to comply with any changes in Sunshine Provisions and Review of Attendance Policies

Staff reviewed with the Commission proposed changes (attached) to the HRC Bylaws in the areas of:

- Recommendations to City Council
- Relationship to the Office of the City Manager
- Principal Activities
- Attendance

Commissioners expressed concern over the stringent definitions of the attendance policy and the timing of elections. Since the City Clerk will be conducting an upcoming review of all policies relating to Boards and Commissions, that may result in changes to the bylaws, the Commission would not like to make any changes at this time to the bylaws.

By Motion of Vice Chair Bailey, seconded by Commissioner Edwards, the Commission will table any action on bylaws until such time that the Clerk makes any recommendations to any changes to the municipal code. This motion was unanimously approved (Yes: 9; No: 0).

Additionally, the Commission voted to authorize Chair Sippel to write a letter to the City Clerk for inclusion in the October 22 Rules Committee Agenda stating the Commissions concerns regarding the Attendance Policy, as it currently reads. (Letter attached)

Note from staff: Attached is also a letter on the matter discussed above, authored by Commissioner Parker to the October 22 Rules Committee Agenda.

7. Standing Committee Reports: None

8. Commissioner Updates: Vice Chair Bailey encouraged everyone to exercise their right to vote on November 4. Chair Sippel invited everyone to a Pro/Con Forum regarding Measure B, the measure to bring BART to San Jose.

9. Community Events: None

10. Future Agenda Items

- Commission Goals Update: Where are we in terms of the goals set at the HRC Retreat (03/22/08).
- Elections of 2009 Officers

11. Adjournment

Upon a motion by Commissioner Bailey, seconded by Commissioner Edwards, the meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Americans with Disabilities Act: "To request an accommodation or alternative format for City-sponsored meetings, events or printed materials, please call the Human Rights Commission at 408-535-8110 or 408-294-9337 (TTY) as soon as possible, but at least three business days before the meeting/event.