

Human Rights Commission  
April 16, 2009  
DRAFT Minutes

<u>Commissioners Present</u>	<u>Commissioners Absent</u>
Robert Sippel	Vanessa Dao Burbach
David Parker	Edward Walker
Raji Bains	
Raj Bhanot	
Karen Elaine Davis	
Dr. Calvin Gill -late	
Andrae Gonzalez Macapinlac	
John M. Marienthal -late	
Mathew Alexander Salcido	
Donald Christopher Young	

**Council Liaison**

Iris Zheng

**Staff**

Margarita Mendoza – City Manager's Office

**a) Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 6:37 p.m.

**b) Orders of the Day & Agenda Approval**

Due to the interest of Item f(3), "Recommendation to Council regarding an amendment to the Municipal Code section pertaining to excused absences for Council, Board and/or Commissioners to include "significant others" or "partner," this item was moved up to the first Discussion and Action item. By motion of Commissioner Macapinlac, seconded by Commissioner Davis, the Orders of the Day and Agenda were unanimously approved (Yes: 8; No: 0).

**c) Approval of Minutes**

By motion of Commissioner Parker, seconded by Commissioner Bhanot the March 19, 2009 minutes were unanimously approved, with one correction to a typo to the Oral Petitions speaker name, Martha O'Connell. (Yes: 8; No: 0).

**d) Oral Petitions**

- Martha O'Connell- Advisory Commission on Rents will not move Open Forum section to the beginning of their Agenda. This is important to permit public participation of individuals who take public transportation to speak early in the meeting. Chair Sippel will forward this information to the City Clerk.
- Nan Su showed a short video showcasing the upcoming performance of Shen Yun Performing Arts, May 14-17

**e) Standing Reports**

1. **Council Liaison Report** – Councilmember Chu invited Commissioners to participate in the Great American Litter Pick Up events in their Council district.
2. **Human Relations Liaison Report** –The Annual Human Relations Breakfast was extremely successful.
3. **San Jose Police Department Liaison Report** – No report.
4. **Staff Report** – IPA Recruitment has been completed, Chris Constantine was selected as the IPA. Staff has been in communication with IPA staff and Mr. Constantine hopes to attend the HRC May meeting. In

addition, the IPA Office would like to let the Commission know that the IPA Year End report is anticipated for release in June.

**f) Discussion and Action Agenda Items**

**1. Recommendation to Council regarding an amendment to the Municipal Code section pertaining to excused absences for Council, Board and/or Commissioners to include "significant others" or "partner"**

By motion of Commissioner Parker, seconded by Commissioner Young, the Commission tabled discussion and a vote on this item to the May 21 meeting. (Yes: 10, No: 0, Absent: 2)

**2. Summary of 2009 Annual Retreat- April 4, 2009**

Chair Sippel provided a summary of the Commissions Annual Retreat. Minutes were also distributed.

Vice Chair Parker asked Council Liaison staff if Councilmember Chu would be able to support fees for booth and table at the San Jose Pride Festival.

The Outreach Committee has asked to learn more about the City's Diversity Strategy and Goals and support for a website. Commissioner Young asked for more information from Commissioner Gill since he worked on this issue in prior years. Commissioner Gill has the ability to support an external website through his private company. Two specific questions Vice Chair would like answered are the following: 1) What's the process if the City was to support an expanded content version of their website; and 2) If the Commission would like to establish their own external website, what are the legal implications of this? HRC can use a nonprofit with no business with the City to support its website.

**3. 2009 HRC Committee Membership and Leadership**

The following is the Committee membership:

Outreach: Parker, Burbach, Young, Marienthal (alternate)

Public Safety: Sippel, Salcido, Davis, Bains, Walker, Bhanot

**g) Standing Committee Reports:**

Outreach Committee –No additional report, see above questions in section f(2)

Public Safety Oversight Committee – The Public Safety Committee has already taken a step towards completing one goal by sending a letter to each Chief of the Fire and Police Departments.

Youth Commission Liaison –None

Senior Commission- Commissioner Davis has contacted Senior Commission staff to receive more information regarding Senior Commission meetings.

**h) Commissioner Updates:**

Commissioners discussed several community and personal events. Staff was asked to e-mail all events to Commissioners.

**i) Community Events:**

Cinco de Mayo ride-alongs, staff forwarded names to SJPD. SJPD will make arrangements for Commissioners to participate.

j) **Future Agenda Items**

- HRC Recommendation to Council regarding an amendment to the Municipal Code section pertaining to excused absences for Council, Board and/or Commissioners to include "significant others" or "partner"
- City's Diversity Strategy
- Public Forum at Commission Meetings
- Census 2010
- Commission would like to know what positions in the San Jose Police Department are available for Sikhs or other individuals who want to consider employment with the Police Department but cannot adhere to grooming and uniform policy.

k) **Adjournment**

Upon a motion by Commissioner Macapinlac, seconded by Commissioner Young, the meeting was adjourned at 7:42 p.m.

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