

Marin Human Rights Commission
2022 August Special Meeting Drafted Minutes
Tuesday, August 16, 2022 — 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Call to Order at 7:03 with quorum.

Present: Sean McQuaid (SM), Jeremy Portje (JP), Curtis Aikens (CA), Sister Joan Hanna (SJH), Stephany Barahona (SB), Nancy Johnson (NJ)

Order of Business

- 1) Approval of Agenda and Minutes
- Adoption of the drafted Agenda for August 16, 2022 SJH/SB m/s/p
 - Adoption of drafted Minutes for July 12, 2022 SJH/SB m/s/p

Regular Business

The Commission will hold a discussion on an agenda item, at the end of the discussion, the Chair or Co-Chair will ask for public comment on that particular agenda item. The public will then have up to 2 minutes per speaker to speak on that particular agenda item before any action on the item is taken by the Commission.

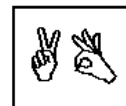
2) **Commissioner Announcements for Items Not on the Agenda**

- No announcements

Public Comment on Items Not on the Agenda

Open time for public expression. The Commission will take public comment (up to 3 minutes per speaker) on all items not appearing on the agenda during this portion of the regular meeting.

- **Eva Chrysanthe** – Homeless encampment underneath a freeway overpass . Media not reporting on conditions. No running water. People developing cellulitis. Security for camp has lack of awareness around bill. Situation in this SSA reported in PacSun. I've been protesting and beg you to put this on the agenda.
- **Rodrigo Izquierdo** - States that he & Eva speak a lot at BOS meetings and advocates that Commissioners tune in to BOS meetings and listen to public comment to know what is going on in the community. Wants to know how agenda items are decided and how people can reach out to you to get issues on the agenda. Should listen to people who have a plight, a complaint. Why don't you have a complaint process? Not really educating the people. You don't comply with intention of commission. Why don't you have Zoom?
- **Damien Morgan** – When you approve the Agenda, you should be calling for public comment. When you approve last month's minutes, you should be calling for public comment. Those are mistakes and should be corrected. Marin is the most segregated county in the state. This board is a protector of the county. Is this board still protecting the county, or will it do work?



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SM: @Roger - Should there be public comment on approving the Minutes and Agenda?

Roger: Will look into that.

Curtis: When the public says things that are untrue...

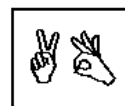
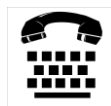
Roger: Let the public make their comments and then move on

- **Bill Hale:** *Recommends Brown Act training. Shortcomings across the board everywhere. One error after another. Whenever you take an action, you take public comment. There should be training on that. Room for growth across the board here.*
- **Veronica Geretz:** *Thank you for your time and willingness to be in the learning curve. Often encounter constructive criticism. Grateful for you and what's ahead on the agenda.*

3) **Marin City 80 Year Celebration**

(Introduction by Commissioner Johnson, Presentation by Felecia Gaston of Marin Performing Stars)

- **Felecia:** Thank you for the invitation to speak.
Marin City is Celebrating 80 years. This Celebration includes series of events and culminates with Soul Party on Labor Day.
 - i) Performing Stars evolved over the years into a multi-service center agency with focus on youth enrichment, families and parents
 - (1) Phoenix program – around black men and law enforcement
 - ii) Marin City 80 Year Celebration
 - (1) Slide show presentation
 - (2) Featured on publications
 - (3) Able to hear voices of Marinship volunteers
 - (4) 8/20 Grand opening inside Bartolini Gallery @Marin Center
 - (a) Includes memorabilia, newspapers, archives
 - (b) Documents housing discrimination from 1942-1982
 - (i) Red-lining – not able to purchase homes outside of Marin City
 - (c) Showcase Theatre presentation 8/27-8/28 @ 2pm (date changed due to construction)
 - (d) Highlights civil rights case – Marinship boilermakers in separate union
 - (i) Thurgood Marshall came to Marin County to rep Joseph James – 1944 – won this case
 - (e) Additional part of exhibit 1st floor & 3rd floor of Civic Center
 - (i) Images provided by local Marin City architect
 - (ii) Places on national historic register
 - (f) Celebration culminates w/Blues & Soul Party in the Park
 - (g) Highlight publication: “Grandmothers feed us love”
 - (i) Cherished recipes & photos of grandmothers born before 1942
 - (5) Thank you to our partner MarinCity Historical & Preservation Society
 - (6) Information also on Performing Stars Website
 - (7) Invite you to come to grand opening on 8/20 at 12pm
 - (a) Greyhound bus on site – donated by museum



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- (b) Other surprises on site
- (c) Spread the word and share Marin City's Black Experience

SM: Thanks Felecia

SB: Is there a way to share the slide deck to have dates/times of celebration?

Roger: Yes, we can get copies of it to you

Felecia: Will send flyer w/ correct times at the Showcase Theater.

SM: Send it to Roger & he will send out to the Commissioners

CA: Thank you

SJH: Thank you. Appreciate inclusive and broad approach. Look forward to participating

NJ: Thank you for taking the time to share w/HRC. Important for members and public to get an idea around the history in Marin City

Felecia: Please be there @ noon for the Grand Opening on Saturday 8/20

Public comment:

- **Eva Chrysanthe:** Grateful for the presentation. Wants to add some items - Rent money that workers in Marin City paid to county, the county used to buy Marin City from the federal government. News clippings – interesting to track the trajectory of Felecia's work – timed w/beginning of the war on drugs. News Clippings are tragic. This is an industry that profits off of mass incarceration of black communities.Parallel world of drug use in Mill Valley that police are not responding to in the same way.
- **Rodrigo Izquierdo:** *Scheduling issue. Meeting was cancelled and then relisted with no explanation. Assumed this was for her presentation. Have to be clear to explain yourself. Your example should be the BOS. Give a reason, whatever it is. The meeting has to be named as to why. Why are you making accommodations?*

SM: We are wandering off topic. The reason was a technical difficulty. Thank you for your comment. Seeing no other hands raised. Felecia thank you again.

Roger: I want to explain one piece – We had to cancel regularly scheduled meeting. Meetings are regularly scheduled on 2nd Tuesdays of each month. Because it was cancelled, this meeting becomes a “Special Meeting”.

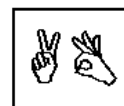
CA: Thank you Roger.

SM: Was this posted?

Roger: Yes. This was posted – both Special Meeting & the cancelled regular Meeting had their agendas posted.

4) **AB 1185 Citizen/Resident Sheriff Oversight Update**
(Update from Commissioners Aikens and Portje)

CA: 1185 is going forward. We will have oversight in Marin County. HRC is charged with putting together working group. Looking for 13 people. Have set up email (theCommish415@gmail.com) where people can express interest in being part of the working group. Questions to address in the email are:



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- Name
- Phone #
- Email
- Why do you want to join this process to create this oversight? What can you bring to this working group to make sure it is the best in the country and unbiased?

CA: Want County input from all 5 Districts.

JP: We are meeting with the County Assessor's office and they are moving forward on this – signing the contract with NACOLE. Ball is in motion – a matter of community weighing in which pieces

CA: Have approval from the county. Only person have not spoken with is the sheriff himself. We want to keep everyone updated. Can share one-on-one.

JP: Individuals on working group can have passion, but do not need law enforcement experience.

SB: Request name, address, phone number and email. Then can reach out to people who may be interested.

CA: 4 things should be addressed in email to theCommish415@gmail.com:

- Name
- Phone #/email
- Why do you want to serve on this working group?
- What expertise/value can you bring?

CA: Request to post the email, and the 4 things that should be addressed in the email, into the chat

JP: Typing it into the chat right now.

CA: Thank you for posting the email (@JP)

NJ: Is it the Administrator's office or the Assessor's office who is cutting the check to move forward with partnership with NACOLE?

JP: Confirmed it is the Administrator's office, not the Assessor's office.

SM: Commission voted last month to send recommendation to the board & that process is moving forward through the County Administrator's Office.to engage w/NACOLE.

SM: Little confused about what we're asking for from the other commission/working group that is being established. Please walk me through it.

CA: County has asked HRC – has asked us to ensure there is cross section of Marin residents to establish working committee – establish AB1185. Working group can then convene w/NACOLE and ensure that everyone is represented. We have suggestions, but as HRC – should not serve - need to ensure it is fair & unbiased.

SM: You & Commissioner Portje – next step is to put together working group that will work separately from HRC.

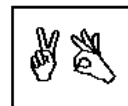
CA: Tasked (by Office of Equity & BOS) with ensuring process is fair & equitable. HRC are watchdogs of this process – they are oversight of the oversight. Will be able to share more next month.

Roger: RE: Putting things in the chat. Be mindful of putting things in the chat that are not vocalized

SM: Any other comments or questions from other commissioners?

CA: Reaching out to other communities to see how they've put out oversight. Want to ensure it is done properly.

SM: Thank you both.



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Public comment

- **Veronica Geretz:** Grateful for that. Please put email in the chat where all can see Please ask for which district, so that all areas are represented. If you want to make it easier on yourselves – create a survey monkey – promote what you're doing.
- **Eva Chrysanthe:** Hope this will be something to be congratulated on – if things are changing... Was informed that I needed to send a letter to the jail via USPS (via Las Vegas) – through Pigeonly – to try to communicate with someone within the county jail. This is a scam system – making \$8k per year
- **Debbie Toizer:** Thank you for everything you're doing. Think we need an inspector general. This is an important tool for working toward a just county.
- **Rodrigo Izquierdo:** Sheriff will retire and undersheriff will take over. My question is: Does anyone know the philosophy of new sheriff who is taking over? We want to change the status quo. He might be more lenient or more strict. This is important to know. Do any of you know as to what type of person this is?
- **Debra Taube:** Echo the thank you Curtis & Jeremy for your work you've put in with getting this far w/the process. While AB1185 allows oversight, it needs to be board w/full subpoena power and inspector general. Otherwise, it may not achieve what you've been working so hard for. Focus on conditions at Marin County Jail. Without inspector general & subpoena power, that will be difficult.

SM: Debra we lost your connection. We cannot hear you.

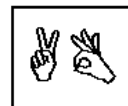
- **Lisa Scarsella:** Echo this process and transparency. We as the public know what is happening. Is there a timeline for when this working group/committee will start their work? Is there a deadline to apply? Do you have to live in the county? Do you have to be a citizen? Would like a link on the website for people to get more information on the website.

SM: Concludes public comment on this item.

CA: Wants to clarify. Apologies for saying citizen. This will be made up of people who live in the county. We will not ask for papers. Maybe people who work in the county? What do we think of that as we're forming that? Tight timeline – want to get this done before the end of the year.

Don't want anything to be left out. Want an effective oversight.

Looking at next 10-12 days for people who'd like to serve.



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5) **Marin Human Rights Commission Website**
(Update from Commissioners McQuaid and Portje)

Discussion/Action Item

SM: This is pertinent based on conversation we've been having tonight. One website we have is county website (<https://www.hr.marincounty.org/get-to-know-us/commissions/humanrights-commission>), which is primary website for HRC. This is the place of record for agendas/minutes. Also in the process of creating new website. It is currently a working live website – not a lot of content yet - marinhumanrights.org. Will be posting content here - can post information following this meeting. Will show date of next meeting. There is also a section for agendas/minutes. Content/news and current commissioners posted.

NEW: Option to subscribe to newsletter.

Commissioner Portje & I will revamp website subcommittee.

SM: Commissioner questions?

SJH: Might that be a place for Marin City 80 years celebration information? Working group information for AB1185 or summary of AB1185?

SM: Could draft content. Could link presentation from Felecia.

CA: I can do a recap of our (AB1185) update and can get that to you tmrw to post online.

SM: Thank you. That would be very helpful.

JP: Hoping this will be a direct line for community to bring issues before us in between mtgs. Way to get presentations on the meetings faster. Because Brown Act, would **not** be 2-way communication.

Roger – Is the question, the website becomes a way for general public to reach out to you (the Commission in general)? Comes through the website – we're looking to hire someone to replace Chris – if there is a particular commissioner that wants to reach back out to an individual from your district, that is OK. Where you were to run into an issue with the Brown Act is if you were to reach out to other commissioners and discuss this in between meetings. Can reach out to staff member who will be replacing Chris to coordinate and figure out the best way to channel it to the proper Commissioner to respond.

SB: Disability right or voting rights & someone wants to talk to me about that – would our personal email be there or would they be able to reach out to a person without that. How would that work?

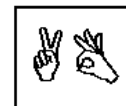
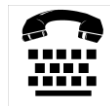
Roger: You could put on the website what your interest is, so the public would see it and could reach out based on that. Members of the community would know what your interests are. Wouldn't recommend posting personal contact information.

SM: that is spot on as far as what is possible. Could use bios to show areas of interest. Could add a contact form – including what district they live in – could go to staff at the county and make the appropriate connections.

Topic of how we facilitate the content as a commission. Some functionality we can turn on that will be helpful based on what we've heard tonight.

SJH: Will there be an archive so that it could be retrieved at a later date?

SM: All the posts would be part of the public record and could be retrieved at a later date. The active commissioners show on home page. Past commissioners can be accessed as well.



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Public Comment:

- **Rodrigo Izquierdo:** *In 2014, you had a fully functional website - a way for the public to write comments and complaints. In 2015 over reorganization, it was reformed to not have the website anymore and powers were diminished. You could look this up. It was run for over a decade. As far as Brown Act – BOS – mandated to say what they did. Do you want to be reached.*
- **Eva Chrysanthe:** *Mr. Izquierdo was referring to was Ken Casey who was running a ponzi scheme. Bring this up to remind commissioners about responsibility. Believe commissioners are operating in good faith. Reminder that things can go astray.*
- **SM:** tie it to the website
- **Eva Chrysanthe:** *A different board is flagrant in its violations. Invite you to look at other commissions & boards.*

6) **Marin Human Rights Commission Retreat**
(Introduction by Commissioner McQuaid)

SM: Introduction:

Members of the commission are relatively new. Many different topics of conversation. Organized retreat in the past. Discuss goals/ambitions for the year ahead. Wanted to bring back to the group the idea of a retreat so we can plan a longer session and get to know one another and the different focuses of the group.

Want to hear from fellow commissioners on their appetite for that and any thoughts on organizing the event. Maybe October.

CA: Sounds good. October earlier than later is best. When will we have the additional commissioner who was appointed?

Roger: New commissioner (Castillo) – approved 7/27 – Will need to have her take the oath. In the process of contacting her to coordinate.

SB: Like this idea and agree on sooner instead of later.

SJH: Agree that it would be beneficial to get to know one another and learn about our interests and where they dovetail. See how this can work together for the betterment of Marin County.

SM: Is there a preference between in person or virtual?

SB: In person

SJH: Critical piece is date/time. Open to in person.

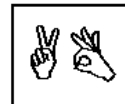
NJ: prefer in person

JP: Prefer in person. Timeframe sooner instead of later. Have a lot of things to close up before we start new ones.

SM: Think planning for October will help us iron things out for the new year.

SM: Other thoughts/comments?

CA: Brown Act – this is something we have to talk about in the meeting? How do we do this and get this set up.



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Roger: Are you talking about coordinating a date? In the past the county representative – would be me until we get someone – would send out potential dates.

CA: If we're in person, I love the spot over by Dominican.

SM: That sounds good. Will circle back with you offline to figure out how to plan it.

Public Comment:

- **Eva Chrysanthe:** *strongly urge this commission to not do a retreat. I think it doesn't look right. This commission shows that you are engaging w/victims you are representing and does not look right to do a retreat. Should take a strong stand that any time would be spent going out into the field and doing what you're supposed to be doing – interviewing people who have been abused and that they'll be part of the process of AB1185.*

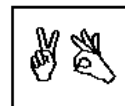
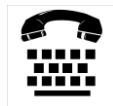
- **Rodrigo Izquierdo:** *Witnessed discussion on your roles. Object of your get togethers should be how to serve the public better. What subjects have the public shared, that have not been addressed? Take inventory of issues that are important to public. Request record compiling what was done in previous year – they did this once. Currently there is no previous record for what was addressed. Why are you going to have this meeting? Your only object is to serve the public.*

SM: We've heard from the public. Will discuss w/Roger and the come back next month to discuss

SM: That was final item on the agenda.

Will now adjourn the meeting.

7) Adjournment



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