

FINAL, ADOPTED 9/5/2007
MINUTES
SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC JUSTICE COMMISSION
MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, JULY 11, 2007
7:30 pm

1. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:35.
2. Roll Call: Present: Duncan, Johns, Larsen, Marks, Maris, Thomsen. Absent: None.
Staff: Lieberman
3. Approval of minutes. Johns moved to approve the minutes of 6/6/2007. Larsen seconded. Minutes were approved 5-0-1. (Thomsen abstaining)
4. Opening Public Forum. Alan Riffer commented about the need for the Commission to take up the topic of the City's Campaign Reform Act this year, before the elections in the following year.
5. Discussion and Possible Action on Matters Related to the Following Items
The order of the agenda was discussed. It was agreed to move Item 5-5 to the beginning of the agenda. The first two items were televised on the City's Cable TV station.
 - 5.1. 4th of July Event: (taken out of order, was item #5-5) Duncan summarized the table that the Social and Economic Justice Commission had at the 4th of July event. At that event they had a variety of information. They also had some participatory materials designed to gather community input. One of these was an informal "macaroni survey" which allowed people to vote on what they thought the most important issues were for the community. Health care and the environment were the top two, followed by the impeachment resolution, discrimination, homelessness/affordable housing, and other. In addition, the SEJC asked if the City should speak out on national issues or keep itself purely local. Of fourteen respondents, 11 were in favor of including national issues, and three wanted to keep it local. Overall, the booth was a success and enjoyed many visitors from the community.
 - 5.2. Waterfront Planning: (taken out of order, was item #5-1) Don Neuwirth, the City's waterfront planning consultant gave a presentation about his role and requested input from the Commissioners and the public. He noted that he was working on a "plan for a plan" and that there were four main areas he would be focused on, including: 1) Level of Detail for the plan; 2) Geographic Scope to be included; 3) Resource Constraint issues; and 4) Public Participation. Commissioners discussed a variety of issues, stressing the need for public education and involvement at many levels. Discussion included the need for real participation and what that actually meant, consensus building (as opposed to a charette model); inclusion of health issues, and the need to look forward and get beyond past disputes in the community. Four members of the public spoke, raising the issues of involving existing merchants, discussing economics, stressing education, and the need for the waterfront selection process to include appropriate deliverables. Commissioners discussed a variety of

public education and involvement issues with Mr. Neuwirth, including surveys, polling, participatory democracy, meetings with other local groups, town hall types of meetings, use of technology, etc. At the end of this item, the Commission invited Tom Poole, who is part of “People to People” to speak about youth participation in this or other activities that involved the Commission. [Thomsen left at the conclusion of this item.]

- 5.3. Peace Day Event: (taken out of order, was item #5-8) Commissioner Maris discussed the research he had done in order to organize a Peace Day event. His vision for the first year of this event was a short event, on Sunday, September 23, 2007, perhaps 3-4 hours in the afternoon including speakers, food, and perhaps music. He cited the Green Albany event as an example of how this might work. He asked for one additional Commissioner to volunteer to help organize it, and Commissioner Johns volunteered. Also discussed was working with Tom and other High School Youth on this issue. At the request of a member of the public, the name of the event was changed to “Peace Action Day” and the commission agreed. Maris requested that a Peace Department resolution be added to the next SEJC agenda.
- 5.4. Resolution calling for Impeachment of Bush/Cheney: (taken out of order, was item #5-6) Commissioners discussed the sample impeachment resolution brought by Duncan. Discussions included the timing and the desire to have a broader community discussion, such as a Town Hall meeting. Johns asked to discuss the reasons that Commissioners might be opposed to the resolution. Maris stated that he would prefer a censure. With regard to the resolution, Larsen requested deletion of the second “whereas” clause and removal of the word “non-citizen” in the fifth “whereas” clause. The Commission extended the meeting to 10:15. The following motion was made by Marks, seconded by Johns: *The SEJC recommends to Council that they adopt the resolution approved by the SEJC, with the changes discussed, and with any other changes they see fit, calling for the impeachment of President Bush and Vice President Cheney.* The motion passed 4-1-0.
- 5.5. Council Referral Item: United States National Health Insurance Act, HR 676 and
- 5.6. Council Referral Item: California Health Insurance Reliability Act, SB840: Commissioner Marks distributed a number of items regarding Health Care to the Commissioners, and requested that they review the materials and the items be brought back in September. Duncan asked about the timing in terms of getting a recommendation to the Council for their first meeting in September, since there are no Council or Commission meetings in August. Commissioners agreed that they would address this issue at their first meeting in September.

The Commission agreed to delay the remaining items to the September meeting.

- 5.7. Council Referral Item: California Clean Money and Fair Elections Act, AB 583
- 5.8. School Board Appointments: Held over to next meeting
- 5.9. Affordable Housing subcommittee: Held over to next meeting
- 5.10. Prioritizing Items: Held over to next meeting.

5.11. Public Communications between SEJC and Public: Held over to next meeting.

6. Announcement/Communications

Duncan noted that due to the large number of items on the Commission's agenda, a second meeting might be advisable in September.

7. Future Agenda Items:

7.1. Council Referrals—Two items regarding Health Care (SB840 and HR676)

7.2. Council referrals—campaign finance reform

7.3. Campaign Finance Reform—City Ordinance

7.4. Council Referral: California Clean Money and Fair Elections Act, AB583

7.5. School Board appointments: report back on any communications

7.6. Peace Action Day Event/Resolution

7.7. Affordable Housing: subcommittee update

7.8. Scheduling a Second meeting for September

7.9. Prioritizing Items, including items unresolved from prior agendas

7.9.1. Key/Route Solano

7.9.2. Civility and public discourse

7.9.3. Code of Conduct

7.10. Public Communication between SEJC and Public (held over)

8. Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 10:15. The next meeting was scheduled for September 5, 2007 at 7:30 pm.