

ADOPTED
MINUTES
SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC JUSTICE COMMISSION
MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, APRIL 11, 2007
8:00 pm

1. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 8:05.

2. Roll Call
Present: Duncan, Johns, Larsen, Maris, Marks, Thomsen
Absent: D'Orio
Staff: Lieberman

3. Approval of minutes. Thomsen moved to approve the minutes of 3/14/2007. Maris seconded. Minutes were approved 4-0-2. (Duncan, Marks abstaining)

4. Election of Officers: Thomsen nominated Duncan. Marks seconded. Duncan was elected on a vote of 6-0-0. Johns remains the vice chair.

5. Opening Public Forum. A member of the public asked that the Commission recommend to Council that they consider a resolution calling for the impeachment of President Bush.

6. Discussion and Possible Action on Matters Related to the Following Items
 - a. Services to Albany Homeless and Persons in Need of Mental Health Services

The Commissioners discussed the desire to develop recommendations to Council regarding this issue and the presentations that have been received over the prior three months. Lieberman and Maris informed the Commission briefly about the City of Berkeley's new proposal "Public Commons for Everyone" to address loitering. Details were not available but more might be learned after it is addressed at the Berkeley Council meeting on May 8. Their was discussion about the potential impact it might have on Albany. There was also discussion regarding fundig for outreach to the homeless and the difficulty of determining how many homeless we have in Albany. The Commissioners discussed the three areas of potential action that were identified at the February 14 meeting, which were: 1) Educational opportunities; 2) A city contribution to the BAMHD for outreach; 3) encouraging volunteerism at BOSS or other facilities. There was discussion regarding some specific populations including seniors and transitional age youth, as well as the overall problems of affordable housing.

MOTION by Johns, second by Thomsen:

The SEJC recommends to City Council that the City work with schools, social services, police, and the Berkeley/Albany Mental Health District to offer public information and the means to address the problems faced by the homeless in Albany and to urge the community to address the issue in specific and concrete ways, including the provision of referral and resource materials; education about the issues of homelessness; and opportunities for volunteerism at organizations addressing the

issue, such as the Ursula Sherman Village facility run by Building Opportunities for Self Sufficiency (BOSS). Passed on a vote of 6-0-0.

b. City Motto: Lieberman distributed a mock up that had been prepared by the graphic designer for the City's newsletter. Commissioners were favorable to the presentation of the issue, but wanted to clarify the process further, especially to ensure that the community had a chance to participate. The commission discussed the following process:

- o The City will publicize the motto contest via newsletter, web site, etc. and will receive all of the entries.
- o The SEJC will screen the initial entries and select the top entries. (# to be determined, but probably about 10-12) The SEJC would like to have representatives from other organizations assist with this (Historical Society, Chamber of Commerce, etc.)
- o The top entries will be publicized and community input will be gathered (possibly by voting on them via mail and web-site. (discussed using survey monkey)
- o The top selections (# to be determined, but probably 3?) will then be recommended to City Council.
- o Prizes will be awarded to top selections, consisting of gift certificates to local Albany restaurants.

Thomsen noted that a definite deadline for submissions should be included in the advertisements. Commissioners agreed that Duncan and Thomsen will review the final text of the ad with staff and can approve it for the Commission.

7. Announcements/Communications

Lieberman distributed some information regarding the 211 system. It was noted that the Commission's recommendation regarding the Withdrawal from Iraq resolution would be on the Council agenda for April 23, 2007.

8. Future Agenda Items:

- a. Affordable Housing: Marks and Maris would like to discuss a potential subcommittee to look at this in more detail
- b. Resolution calling for Impeachment of Bush/Chaney. Based on request from public, commission agreed to put on agenda for next month
- c. 4th of July event: Johns would like to have a debate or other forum on what democracy means at the City's 4th of July event.
- d. Peace Day Event: Maris noted that this was scheduled for May and since the event should be in September it was time to start planning.
- e. Update on Waterfront Planning Process: Duncan wanted to know the potential role of the SEJC in this process.

9. Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 10:00 p.m. The next Commission meeting is scheduled for May 9, 2007.

