

APPROVED
MINUTES
SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC JUSTICE COMMISSION
MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, March 10, 2010
7:30 pm

1. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm.
2. Roll Call: Present: Cashmere, Parsley, Ganong, Kerr, Marks, Duncan
Absent: None
Staff: Lieberman
3. Approval of minutes. Approval of Minutes of 1/13/2010: Moved by Kerr, Seconded by Cashmere. Ganong Abstains. 3-0-1
4. Public Comment. None.
5. Discussion and Possible Action on Matters Related to the Following Items
 - 5.1. Open Container Ordinance: Commissioners discuss whether all public areas should be included. Ganong would like to accommodate alcohol at events, such as music in the park. Is there a permit required for a city sponsored event? How can people be made aware of requirements. Jordan Sampietro speaks and notes that parks in other cities either ban or require permits. Ganong makes the following motion:

That the City Attorney review the language of the current ordinance (AMC8-4.6) to suggest modifications or revisions, in particular that the open container portion apply to any Albany public space, and include the following considerations: 1) fines; 2) permits be required for private events in public spaces, such as parks; 3) waivers for restaurants with open air seating. Request that the draft ordinance come back to SEJC for review as expeditiously as possible.
Seconded by Kerr, vote: 5-0-1(Duncan abstains)
 - 5.2. Living Wage: Staff presents summary and cost issue. Kerr, Duncan, Cashmere note their support for bumping the bottom up to \$13.54. Ganong asks about impacts regarding reaching union wage rates. Public Comments: Clay Larson says that he believes it would be inequitable to just apply a living wage increase to 20 hour employees and that it would create incentive to have employees work less than 20 hours. Caryl O'Keefe recommends more than 20 hours. Cashmere asks to have more info on what other cities are doing. Discussion about health benefits. Commissioners thank Marks for her hard work and request that she bring information to April meeting about the 20 hour threshold issue. Staff will bring costs if living wage applies to all employees, including those under the 20 hour threshold.
 - 5.3. Cable TV policy: Parsley discusses televising more commission meetings as a way to get more public involvement. Clay Larson (as member of Community Media Access Committee (CMAC) discusses need to find more funding. Kerr asks if this is effective? What are costs? How many hits on Granicus? Kerr would like to explore in general engaging the community, not just via TV. Ganong notes the

advantage to having meetings broadcast, esp as print journalism is undergoing significant cuts. How full is the schedule? Web page on KALB has schedule. Commission requests information on cost per meeting; availability of time on schedule; how do other commissions feel about it. Return to agenda for April.

5.4. Police Community Relations: Cashmere presents her recommendations, and notes that the goal is to alleviate any concerns and further actions. She includes the following four points

- Include a police department contact position (phone # to call for help)
- Provide a timeline so people know what to expect in terms of follow up (days, weeks, months?)
- Translate into Spanish and or provide list of resources for other languages. (Is there a translation service available for the public from PD?)
- Add language re: physical impairment, such as, “Do you need assistance filling out this form?”

Cashmere also discusses that it might be useful to list another agency to refer to, such as Human Rights commission. Commissioners discuss this last item-- Kerr suggests do not include this as part of the form, since there are many organizations, and issue arise of which ones to include. Cashmere is okay with that, and would be fine with having a separate resource list available. Kerr requests staff contact APD with the above recommended changes, all Commissioners agree.

5.5. Gill Tract subcommittee report: Parsley recuses himself, Kerr chairs. Duncan talked to Urban Roots; Transition Albany; Sustainability Committee; Carbon Offset Albany; General feeling but nothing official was support for agriculture and concern re: Whole Foods project. Margie reviewed materials on website. Return to Agenda for April meeting.

5.6. City Health Care Issue for Employees/Council: Parsley discusses health care policy. Council does not have the same health care cap as employees. (Kaiser family). Council salary to go \$5 per meeting to \$300/month. How many take advantage of health care? Is this confidential? Review the past recommendation. Clarify at April meeting

5.7. Update on Council Action on any SEJC issues—Block party issue to be included in budget discussions as item. Public comment: Allen Maris discusses having member of Commission attend Council meetings.

6. Announcement/Communications

6.1 Judy Kerr: Student Member: Leadership council nominates the student. Trying to contact the student group. Talk to academic advisors—Maris says just go to the class and they are very welcoming.

Parsley: April 3—Park clean up at Terrace Park.

7. Future Agenda Items:

Gill Tract
Living Wage
Cable TV
Equity in Health Care Coverage between Council and Employees
Update on Open Container
Student member
Budget Impacts (May)

8. Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 9:30. The next meeting is scheduled for April 14 at 7:30 pm. The location is 1000 San Pablo Avenue.