

DRAFT
MINUTES
SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC JUSTICE COMMISSION
MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, September 15, 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,
Absent: Marks (excused); Duncan
Staff: Lieberman
3. Approval of minutes. Approval of Minutes of 6/9/2010: Moved by Ganong, Seconded by Kerr.
4. Public Comment.

John Dalrymple—Sheet metal worker union; discussion of Safeway and Whole Foods and use of Union labor. Requests consideration of development agreement to request use of local labor; and requests to be workers. Agendize for next meeting.

Jerri Holan, for Charter Review Committee, for Yes on N.

Francesco Papilia: Issue regarding homeless support services. Discussion of encampments on bulb; no infrastructure. Will be addressing this issue in presentation at Waterfront Committee, suggests that this is a good issue for SEJC to address.

5. Discussion and Possible Action on Matters Related to the Following Items

5.1. Death Penalty Resolution: Faye Chu, resident of Albany representing the Alameda County Coalition for Alternatives to the Death Penalty. The Coalition is composed of a variety of other groups, advocating for life imprisonment without possibility of parole as an alternative to the death penalty in Alameda County. Ms. Chu requested that the Commission consider recommending the resolution. Cashmere discusses the information that she has brought, and notes that the death penalty is not a deterrent to crime. Commissioners discuss concerns re: the number of people on death row in California, the huge expense and the impact on families and victims. Cashmere notes the problem of racial disparities. Kerr discusses her personal involvement working with the ACLU, and with California Crime Victims Against the Death Penalty. She notes that it is a County wide-issue and relevant locally to Albany.

Moved by Kerr, seconded by Cashmere:

Motion to ask the City Council to consider the Resolution as provided by Alameda County Coalition for Alternatives to the Death Penalty, and to recommend adopting the resolution. Motion passes 4-0.

- 5.2. Discussion and Recommendations regarding Advisory Body Report
Commissioners discuss their reaction to the Advisory Body Report. Kerr says that the idea to merge with the Sustainability Committee seems to make sense because of

Environmental Justice issues. She reviewed the WIF website, and although the issues were not pertinent, the process was interesting. Cashmere believes that the report merits lots of discussion. She is not completely comfortable with some of the suggestions, particularly minutes. Parsley agrees with wanting to have staff at Committee and Commission meetings, particularly regarding items that could be legal issues and require some staff guidance. The Brown Act is a specific example. Cashmere notes that staff help to work through the administrative issues. Commissioners discuss the idea of limited agenda access and meeting as needed. Parsley says that the priority is to hear from public and put items on agenda. He agrees with issue of meeting as needed, but stresses autonomy to bring up agenda items. Examples would be the Council health benefit issue, the death penalty issue or any other political issue.

Commissioners discuss combining Sustainability and SEJC and the possibility of having a large commission, like the Arts committee. This would mean one less staff member. Concerns are raised with potential length of Commission meetings. Cashmere notes that the SEJC was formed as Council's way of wanting to hear from the public. Commission can complement Council, enhance and support. Kerr—notes that Albany is a small city--is the cost spent well spent? Are agendas tight, discussions pertinent, etc. Francesco Papalia, as member of Waterfront committee, notes that it is easy for government to expand but hard to contract. Broadness of scope means issues are short-changed. For instance Waterfront homeless issue ignored by WF Committee. He suggests restricting issues to things we can take from point a to point b, and get more people involved. Commissioners discuss people who are on boards not showing up. Suggestion regarding having a half day retreat for all of the commissions, attendance mandatory. Item to be continued next month.

- 5.3. Discussion of Student Membership and Review of enabling resolutions: SEJC has not had an effective student representative. Should the spot be opened up to another School Board member? Parsley believes it is going to be difficult to get a youth member. Should the student position just be removed? Kerr notes that no one is stepping up from the school in spite of her inquiries. Ganong says why is there a problem, as her grand-daughter would be willing. Commission discusses possibility of opening to any youth member up to the age of 21? FP comments that less is better, and suggests reconstituting SEJC as five member commission. Commissioners agree to combine this with discussion of Advisory Body report at next (October) meeting.
- 5.4. Gill Tract subcommittee report: Brian recuses himself. Neither member of subcommittee is here. Francesco proposes concept of what is the best use of the Gill Tract and value to the City. Notes that UCB agriculture is being phased out and transferred to Davis. Discusses value of land, but not in favor of a farm in this area.
- 5.5. Boycott of Arizona: Discussion. Kerr notes troubling aspect of Arizona law. Parsley does not like economic boycott idea as it does not address real issue of immigration problems. Doesn't want to craft anything "on-the fly." Ganong, Cashmere agree. No recommendation to Council to pursue.

5.6. Impact of State budget Cuts: Moved to next meeting, awaiting budget news.

6. Announcement/Communications

6.1 Council health benefits issue will be addressed at Council Sept meeting. Kerr will attend Parsley will not be available for next SEJC meeting October 13, so Kerr will chair.

7. Future Agenda Items:

Homelessness in Albany issue
Advisory body Report/Student Membership/Commission Composition
Labor Issue
Gill Tract
State budget

8. Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 9:10. The next meeting is scheduled for October 13, 2010 at 7:30 pm. The location is 1000 San Pablo Avenue.