

City of Albany, California

Social and Economic Justice Commission

DRAFT: Meeting Minutes June 4, 2013

1. Meeting was officially called at 7:35pm.

2. Committee Members Present: Ruth Cashmere (chair), Margie Marks (member), Robert Lieber (member). Paul O'Curry (member)

Committee Members Not Present: None

Staff Members Present: Brad Griffith.

3. Approval of Minutes: January 2013. Motion to approve by Marks, seconded by Lieber, passed unanimously.

4. Public Comment: Lieber distributed literature concerning lifeline cell phone service for homeless and low income individuals as well as information on gun control regulations in California. Lieber stated that amendments had yet to be passed on certain gun control issues.

Announcements/ Communications: None

Discussions:

Item 5.1: Cashmere made official statement that she did not want to be chairperson of the SEJC Commission forth going and a new individual needed to be appointed. Lieber stated that he would accept the vacant position, O'Curry seconded, motion passed unanimously. O'Curry stated that he wanted to occupy the seat of vice-chair of the SEJC, motioned by Marks, seconded by Lieber, passed unanimously.

Item 5.2: Presentation by Hin Han Ska Haney regarding literature on the Declaration of Rights of Indigenous People. Ska Haney also expanded on the history of the Ohlone people and their contributions to the region of Albany in specific and voiced concerns that they are not recognized by the United States government as having a voice concerning issues that affect them. Ska Haney made mention that the Ohlone peoples gross numbers tally approximately 1000 and in the 100's in the Bay Area alone. Lieber made support statements in the same vein that Albany shows representations of the Ohlone's presence (Ohlone Greenway and at the foot of Albany Hill). Lieber stated that he wanted the Commission to endorse the request of Ska Haney and send a motion to the Albany City Council for approval. However, when Ska Haney asked for an "equal seat" on issues in the name of the Hui Chin tribe of the Ohlone's, Lieber exercised

caution stating that he would only recommend a “general endorsement” of the Ohlone. O’Curry asked if the Ohlone were recognized by the City of Berkeley and Ska Haney verified that they are. Motion to present to Albany City Council and forward to the United Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Director of the California Attorney General’s Office of Native American Affairs and the California Governors’ Tribal Advisor motioned by Cashmere, seconded by Marks, passed unanimously.

Item 5.3: Discussion concerning best ways to advise community members on matters where opposing sides are at odds and give them a forum to work with each other to come to a workable conclusion was introduced but the issue was agreed to be tabled to a later SEJC meeting date.

.Item 5.4: Discussion on issues concerning local response to crime victims in Albany entered into by commission members. Cashmere ultimately posed question as to what the commission would like to do to further progress on this issue. After discussion, Lieber felt that the issue was one to be manned by a community activist / outreach group and be supported by local law enforcement in the interest to best utilize staff time, O’Curry agreed. Lieber advised to explore what safe streets and neighborhood watch programs are doing to get more specific direction before going to Council with a motion. Posting gathered information on the city website as well as collaborating with National Night Out was agreed as viable vehicles for public awareness. O’Curry stated that he would follow up with Karina Tindol in the APD.

Item 5.5: Issue of the appointment of a 5th SEJC member was entered into. Cashmere stated that historically it has been difficult to appoint the a 5th member who would sit responsibly citing inconsistent attendance and expanded her statement to true dedication of City Staff as well. O’Curry requested to explore the option to have utilization of the shower in the basement of the Community Center be made available to homeless individuals. Lieber felt that visibility and execution are primary and that issues concerning these subjects should be brought to Council. Discussion of the SEJC Work Plan was entered into with emphasis placed on the following areas.

- Local Economic Exchange
- HR 808 Project
- Single Payer Health Care
- Partner with local food bank
- Working with Transition Albany
- Institution of a true food pantry in Albany
- SEJC Impacts (decisions by council to go with SEJC recommendations or not)

Adjournment: 9:15pm.

Respectfully submitted, Brad Griffith (staff)