

APPROVED
MINUTES
SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC JUSTICE COMMISSION
MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, MAY 10, 2006

1. Roll Call

Present: Carroll, Duncan, Javendal, Khan, Redel, Thomsen

Absent: Ganong (excused)

Staff: Lieberman

2. Approval of minutes. Redel moved to approve the minutes, Khan seconded. Minutes were approved 5-0-1 (with Thomsen abstaining.)

3. Opening Public Forum. There were no members of the public present who wished to speak.

4. Old Business

- a. Civility and Public Discourse: Khan noted that she was at the most recent City Council meeting and that there was a lot of discussion about process with regard to waterfront planning at the City. She suggested that it might be advisable to have Cynthia Josayma advise the City at the start of any process for waterfront planning. She also advised the commission members of her new employment with Caruso Affiliated working on community and public relations. Thomsen said that she would like to see some type of “campaign” to help people address civility issues. She does not want to see the City divided. Duncan asked if there was a conflict of interest related to Khan working for Caruso. Commission members said this would probably only be relevant if there was a vote taken on an issue about the Caruso project.

Thomsen noted her concerns about the election and the recall from past years and how divisive this was for the community. Carroll expressed a desire to see some concrete actions such as the booth at the 4th of July event, which could gather information from the community. Javandel introduced the idea of a voluntary civility pledge for candidates. Redel mentioned renaming the commission as more conducive to the mission they were taking on. The commission members discussed a number of proposals for community interaction, including the 4th of July booth, an art contest to come up with a graphic and/or slogan, and a variety of themes to pursue, such as: creating community, building bridges, working together for Albany, etc. The Commission proposed (in draft form) the following: “Can you Walk the Talk: Albany Working Together.” Khan said that she would immediately contact the schools for the creation of a logo. Other ideas were to have a statement read before all meetings, and to post posters to make people aware of appropriate behavior.

- b. **Outdoor Public Space:** Mr. Ray Anderson presented the history of the Veterans' Memorial at the 800 block of Key Route Boulevard, including the planting of the trees and the construction of the memorial area. He said that he spoke with the veterans and that they would be in favor of improvements to the area that faces Solano Avenue. He noted that they would definitely be in favor of a more pleasant place to sit and meet. Duncan mentioned that she had information about a grant for a straw bale bench, which could be used as part of the improvements and which was also a community building process since it was to be constructed by the community.
- c. **Table/Booth at 4th of July fair:** Discussed as part of (a) above. Lieberman provided contact information to Carroll regarding setting up a table, and noted that she would be on vacation that week.

5. New Business

- a. **Cable-casting:** Lieberman distributed the letter from the Waterfront Committee which requested the ability to have meetings cable-cast, and a packet of responses gathered from other cities. The Commission members agreed to request additional input from the city's commissions, committees and boards and instructed Lieberman to invite them to the next SEJC meeting.
- b. **Youth membership term:** The commission discussed the expiration of Redel's term on April 30th. Lieberman agreed to contact the School District to request another appointment. The commission members discussed the length of term of the youth member, (May 1 of junior year to April 30 of senior year), and the potential for a longer term appointment. Duncan also mentioned the potential for adding a second youth member to the commission. Lieberman agreed to ask the School Board for their recommendations.
- c. **Future Agenda Items:** Javandel requested that the next agenda include the issue of child care at public meetings.

6. Public Forum: No member of the public chose to speak. (No public was present.)

7. Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 10:00 p.m. The next Commission meeting was scheduled for June 14, 2006 at 8 p.m. in the Council Chambers.