

APPROVED
MINUTES
SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC JUSTICE COMMISSION
MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, APRIL 5, 2006

1. Roll Call

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

Absent: Thomsen, (excused) Ganong (excused)

Staff: Lieberman

2. Approval of minutes. Carroll moved to approve the minutes, Duncan seconded.

Minutes were approved unanimously.

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

4. New business: None

5. Old Business

- a. Crossroads Meeting: Lieberman and Khan summarized the Crossroads meeting and discussed the follow-up activities that the various groups would be engaged in, particularly with regard to Youth issues. Khan mentioned the new health class that will be required by AUSD. There was discussion of peer counseling and Duncan mentioned a program called “Natural Helpers.” Khan noted that police and fire departments should be involved in breaking the code of silence that seems to exist at the high school.
- b. Civility Issue: Javandel started the discussion by asking what kind of direction to follow with regard to Cynthia Josayma’s presentation. There was discussion of the CC consideration of a waterfront planning process and of the ballot initiative, and of how to apply the principles of the presentation. Khan asked if the greater issue of civility should be applied to the waterfront issue or if a less controversial issue should be tackled. Carroll suggested that an issue that was less of a “hot button” issue might be more effective in developing a culture of civility and increasing citizen input. Khan noted that there were two points, getting information out and figuring out how to make sure that people are heard. The City’s role is to provide information and a forum. Carroll asked if a town hall meeting on the impeachment issue would be a good place to start the discussion. Javandel stated that this could easily turn into a party line event and a slam against anyone who was Republican and said that she would feel very uncomfortable. She related a story about a past Albany event in which derogatory comments were made about Republicans that made her feel unwelcome.

Duncan asked about starting with the issue of trust and having a town hall meeting on civility. Carroll asked if the Commission was trying to legislate common sense? Redel asked members to go back and do some research about

what to have a town hall meeting about. Lieberman raised the possibility of having Cynthia Josayma make her presentation to Council, or at a town hall meeting. Duncan said that it could be done at the Council and all of the Commissions could be invited to attend. Javandel was interested in the opportunities to use the new technologies available to facilitate a more participatory process. Duncan noted the need for more participatory democracy, instead of 'business as usual' and said that there may be a lack of understanding of new ways of doing things. The commissioners asked staff to contact Ms. Josayma about a presentation to Council. Lieberman also asked the commissioners to go back to their own friends and neighbors and get their comments about the issue of civility and how to address it.

- c. **Sustainability Inventory:** The Commission discussed how to further education about sustainability. Should this be one of the topics for a town hall meeting? Javandel discussed the importance of green building practices in the community and in the new civic center.
 - d. **Prioritizing Issues:** The commission members discussed the possibility of a booth at the 4th of July fair with a dot board or some other type of ways of gathering information from the community about what kinds of issues would be important and would draw residents to a town hall meeting. Carroll asked about the potential for having an outdoor meeting space/public square at Key Route and Solano. She requested that this be agendaized for further discussion at the next meeting.
6. **Public Forum:** No member of the public chose to speak. (No public was present.)
7. **Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m. The next Commission meeting was scheduled for May 10, 2006 at 8 p.m. in the Council Chambers.