

**FINAL
MINUTES
SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC JUSTICE COMMISSION
MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2008
7:00 pm**

1. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm.
2. Roll Call: Present:, Johns, Larsen, Maris, Marks, Tamang, Thomsen
Absent: Duncan
Staff: Lieberman
3. Approval of minutes. Thomsen moved to approve the minutes of 7/9/2008, as amended. Marks seconded. Minutes approved 5-0-1, with Thomsen abstaining.
4. Opening Public Forum. None.
5. Discussion and Possible Action on Matters Related to the Following Items
 - 5.1. The order of the remaining agenda items was discussed. It was agreed to maintain the order as in the agenda.
 - 5.2. Presentation on Waterfront Planning Process by Fern Tiger Associates: Fern Tiger presented the status report on the Waterfront Planning process. Commissioners said that they were generally impressed and interested in seeing the process move forward. Marks asked for clarification about the next step, involving the community meetings. Commissioners asked to be kept apprised of future plans and results.

Review of Schedule for Commissioner Appointments: Lieberman noted that Council had passed Resolution #08- xx, which standardized the appointment process. All Commissioners would be reappointed after the new Council was sworn in.
 - 5.3. Commission Review, per Resolution #05-15: Lieberman noted that the original resolution creating the Commission had included a review in January 2007. This review was not done. She suggested that a Commission review be scheduled for January 2009, and requested that Commissioners provide input on how the Commissioners felt the Commission was doing and whether they would suggest any changes. Commissioners said that they were not really prepared to discuss this matter. They requested that the item come back in December, be better described on the agenda, that Resolution # 05-15 be circulated, and that prior Commissioners also be asked to provide input. They also requested that this item be noticed on the news page of the web site.
 - 5.4. Follow-up re: Peace Day: Maris read an article by Tom Poole, an Albany student about his experiences at the Peace Day event. He asked if the SEJC should do this event in the future or not, and if not, perhaps someone else should do it. Tamang noted that some of the people lined up for the event pulled out at the last minute, and that Maris pulled a much smaller event together at the last minute. Johns noted the similarity between this and the 4th of July, and said that if there were to be events sponsored by the SEJC they needed a year long planning effort. Thomsen mentioned her concerns about have two events over a short period of time and that the Commission should concentrate on one event. Commissioners also discussed the competing events that took place in September, including the Stroll, centennial, the triathalon, and how busy everyone was with the upcoming election.

Commissioners asked to have this agenda item for January and the new commission members could discuss.

- 5.5. Follow-up re: Campaign Finance Reform: Maris discussed the expenditures by the candidates in the Albany election, and noted that 5 of the six candidates spent below the expenditure limit. Johns asked if there were any recommendations he had based on this. Maris said that it was difficult to write a clear and enforceable ordinance and hoped that council would move forward on the Task Force idea. Lieberman noted that the November 17 agenda included the approval of the Campaign Finance ordinance per the City Attorney's recommendations regarding the process questions that had been raised in August.
- 5.6. Living Wage: Update. Marks stated that she would come to the commission in December with a motion to send to city council to recommend that City contracts include a living wage provision. She did not think that the SEJC should recommend a living wage dollar amount level, but that CC should choose based on expert information. Johns asked if the SEJC had enough background information to send something to CC and that he wanted to present information that was more than just "good intentions." Lieberman said she would provide some background information about city positions and about the janitorial contract to Marks.
- 5.7. Community Building: Civil Discourse and the Participatory Process: Commissioners decided to wait until Duncan returned to talk further about this topic. Commissioners also said that it would be good to follow the Fern Tiger participatory process.
- 5.8. City Motto Update: Johns stated his disappointment about the council lack of action on the city motto and Maris concurred.
- 5.9. Update on Council Actions on SEJC issues: None.
6. Announcement/Communications
None.
7. Future Agenda Items:
 - 7.1. Commission Review
 - 7.2. Living Wage
 - 7.3. Affordable Housing: update
 - 7.4. Community Building: Civil Discourse and the Participatory Process
 - 7.5. Motto
8. Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for December 10 at 7:00 pm. The location is the Senior Center at 846 Masonic.