



Santa Cruz County Latino Affairs Commission

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Meeting Minutes

DATE: Wednesday, October 7, 2020

TIME: 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM

LOCATION: Meeting held remotely

PRESENT: Gilberto Reyes (*1st District*), Abbygale Gonzalez (*2nd District*), Christina Granados (*4th District*), Diana Alfaro (*City of Santa Cruz*), Rebecca Hernandez (*City of Santa Cruz*), Rebecca Garcia (*City of Watsonville*), Patricia Guevara (*City of Watsonville*)

EXCUSED: None

ABSENT: Leo Gomez (*5th District*)

STAFF: Kaite McGrew (*Commissions Coordinator*)

GUESTS: None

1. Call to Order/Roll Call/Agenda Review

Meeting convened at 6:04 PM.

2. Motion to Approve August 5, 2020 Minutes

Motion/Second: Garcia/Hernandez

Motion passed unanimously.

3. Public Comment: None

4. New Business/Action Items

4.1. Watsonville City Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) Ordinance
Item postponed until the December meeting.

5. Ongoing Business:

5.1. Pajaro Valley COVID-19 Outreach Task Force Update – Christina Granados

The Task Force is undergoing some structural changes. Current messaging around the Dias de los Muertos stresses safe congregating as it is unlikely that community members will not congregate. Watsonville City will close the cemeteries throughout the holiday. Multi-generational and complex households are contributing to spread of disease. Garcia reported nine deaths and a surge of 61 confirmed positive cases in a Watsonville City nursing home which will impact the County's reopening status in the weeks to come. A local church is requesting a permit for a large march for the Virgen de Guadalupe. Commission will invite Professor Kilpatrick to give a presentation on understanding COVID-19 data specific to the Latino community. Granados described the State's new equity metric which ties the County's reopening status to our most impacted community. Garcia reported that the "Agricultural Worker" occupation category has been removed from the County dashboard ostensibly to eliminate the potential for creating an ethnic bias in the community. Granados will follow-up with the Task Force to get more information on this decision.

6. Commissioner Reports

6.1. District 1 Report (Reyes): No Report

6.2. District 2 Report (Gonzalez): No Report

6.3. District 3 Report: Seat Vacant

6.4. District 4 Report (Granados):

Census response deadline is October 31, 2020. The County Santa Cruz has passed its 2010 self-response rate and the City of Watsonville is close. Research shows that housing is determinative of outcomes for children, so affordable housing is a very important issue for District 4.

6.5. District 5 Report (Gomez): Fires in District 5 have had a significant impact.

6.6. Santa Cruz City Report (Hernandez):

UCSC will be remote for the remainder of the school year until at least July 1, 2021. This will impact unemployment rates, as UCSC is the largest employer in the County. Some students were allowed to return because they had special circumstances that would have rendered them homeless without the housing provided.

6.7. Santa Cruz City Report (Alfaro):

The CZU lightning complex fire has impacted much of North Santa Cruz County, resulting in a great deal of ongoing trauma. The County has approved a streamlined rebuilding process. Alfaro acknowledged the many contributions and lengthy service of former County Housing Manager Julie Conway who has recently retired. Conway created a great deal of affordable housing and partnered extensively with Santa Cruz City and Watsonville City. Commissioners are encouraged to review the online forums posted by Monterey Bay Economic Partnership (MBEP) and Santa Cruz Local to help inform ballot decisions. The annual Halloween Parade has been canceled for health and safety reasons.

6.8. Watsonville City Report (Garcia):

An ad hoc Policing Committee will work with a consultant to host community engagement forums on policing and Commissioners are encouraged to participate. There has been an increase in shootings between community members in Watsonville recently.

6.9. Watsonville City Report (Guevara):

Pajaro Valley Arts Council extended their call for photographers and muralists who are interested in participating in the Movable Mural to October 9th. *Sculpture IS: In the Garden 2020* exhibit in partnership with Sierra Azul Nursery and Garden will be on display until October 31st.

7. Staff Report:

The County's Equal EEO/CC Plan has been delayed until year-end workforce data can be included. The Women's Commission's exhibit celebrating the 100-year anniversary of women's suffrage opens this month. Art was created by local women artists, including work by Priscilla Martinez, a promising Latina artist from Watsonville. Commissioners are encouraged to enjoy the virtual tour when it has been published.

8. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 6:47 PM.

Submitted: Kaite McGrew, *Commissions Coordinator*