



# Santa Cruz County Latino Affairs Commission

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## Meeting Minutes

DATE: Wednesday, June 2, 2021

TIME: 6:00 PM

LOCATION: Meeting held remotely

PRESENT: Guadalupe Alvarez Garcia (1<sup>st</sup> District), Christina Granados (4<sup>th</sup> District), Leo Gomez (5<sup>th</sup> District), Diana Alfaro (City of Santa Cruz), Rebecca Hernandez (City of Santa Cruz), Rebecca Garcia (City of Watsonville), Sylvia Mendez (City of Watsonville)

EXCUSED: Abbygale Gonzalez (2<sup>nd</sup> District),

STAFF: Kaite McGrew (Commissions Coordinator)

GUESTS: 4 Members of the Public

### 1. Call to Order/Roll Call/Agenda Review

Meeting convened at 6:04 PM.

Commission welcomed Commissioner Guadalupe Alvarez Garcia (1<sup>st</sup> District) and Commissioner Sylvia Mendez (City of Watsonville).

### 2. Approve April 7, 2021 Minutes

**Motion to approve minutes as amended**

Motion/Second: Garcia/Granados

**Motion passed unanimously.**

### 3. Public Comment

### 4. New Business/Action Items

#### 4.1. 2021 Strategic Action Plan Updates

Commission reviewed the updated 2021 Strategic Action plan which was revised to emphasize diversity, equity and inclusion. Additional language was added to include monitoring of local redistricting efforts, promotion of voter registration and participation in Affordable Housing Month events. Ad Hoc Subcommittee membership will be determined during the next meeting.

**Motion to approve the 2021 Strategic Action Plan as amended**

Motion/Second: Hernandez/Granados

**Motion passed unanimously.**

#### 4.2. 2021 Art Wall Ad Hoc Subcommittee

Commission considered plans for 2021 Art Wall. Ideas centered around acknowledging the impact of the pandemic on the Latino community. Though a subcommittee was not established, Commissioner Mendez will lead the project, coordinate artwork collection and coordinate installation of the exhibit. Staff will reserve the space and provide County equipment/resources.

5. Ongoing Business:

5.1. Pajaro Valley COVID-19 Outreach Task Force Representation

Efforts to reach the task force are ongoing. If the task force still requires representation from the Commission, Mendez is willing to attend on behalf of the Commission.

**Motion to appoint Mendez as Commission liaison to the Pajaro Valley COVID-19 Outreach Task Force if required**

Motion/Second: Garcia/Hernandez

**Motion passed unanimously.**

6. Commissioner Reports

6.1. District 1 Report:

Alvarez Garcia introduced herself and provided additional background.

6.2. District 2 Report: No Report

6.3. District 3 Report: Seat Vacant

6.4. District 4 Report (Granados):

Instagram has 186 followers. Granados shared information about local events including youth (ages 12-15 years) vaccination clinic in Watsonville and the upcoming Watsonville Film Festival, among others.

6.5. District 5 Report (Gomez): No Report

6.6. Santa Cruz City Report (Hernandez): No Report

6.7. Santa Cruz City Report (Alfaro):

Alfaro acknowledged Pride Month and reported that the traditional Fourth of July Parade in Aptos will take place. Alfaro is participating in a committee to discuss a permanent Warriors facility and participated in several Affordable Housing Month events.

6.8. Watsonville City Report (Garcia):

Garcia reported that Watsonville City participated with both Housing Santa Cruz and Re-Imagine Santa Cruz County who provided four webinars related to affordable housing. The Watsonville City Council voted to increase utility rates for improvements to the more than 80 year-old infrastructure. Twenty-four percent of Watsonville residents live in poverty and may experience the rate increase as a hardship. Funding support is available for residents and businesses who have been impacted by the pandemic.

6.9. Watsonville City Report (Mendez):

Mendez introduced herself and provided additional background.

7. Staff Report:

Staff reported that the Regional Transportation Commission is surveying the entire proposed Rail/Trail Corridor property to determine property lines and identify potential encroachments. Once the survey has been completed,

8. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 7:26 PM.

Submitted: Kaite McGrew, *Commissions Coordinator*