



Santa Cruz County Latino Affairs Commission

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Meeting Minutes

DATE: Wednesday, June 1, 2022

TIME: 6:00 PM

LOCATION: Meeting held remotely

PRESENT: Yadira Flores-Martinez (*1st District*), Gregory Peinado (*2nd District*), Cesar De Santos (*4th District*), Leo Gomez (*Chair, 5th District*), Rebecca Hernandez (*City of Santa Cruz*), Sylvia Mendez (*Vice Chair, City of Watsonville*)

EXCUSED: Rebecca Garcia (*City of Watsonville*)

ABSENT: Fe Silva-Robles (*3rd District*)

STAFF: Kaite McGrew (*Commissions Manager*), Jenny Van Natta (*Spanish Language Interpreter*)

GUESTS: Stephanie Hansen (*County Planning Assistant Director*), Micaela Lopez (*Administrative Aide*), Shane Mckeithen (*District 1 Analyst*), Ramon Gomez (*District 4 Analyst*) and 23 members of the public were present.

1. Call to Order/Roll Call/Agenda Review

Meeting convened at 6:07 PM.

Commission welcomed new District 2 Commissioner Gregory Peinado and new District 4 Commissioner, Cesar De Santos.

2. Approve April 6, 2022 Minutes

Minutes amended to correct an error.

Motion to approve minutes as amended.

Motion/Second: Mendez/Hernandez

Motion passed unanimously.

3. Public Comment

4. New Business/Action Items

4.1. County Sustainability Planning Overview

Hansen and Lopez provided a sustainability policy and regulatory update summarizing amendments to the General Plan/Local Coastal Program, modernization of County Code, implementation of new County design guidelines, amendments to land use and zoning maps, and environmental, economic and transportation impact considerations. Commissioners are encouraged to participate in the public review process to offer feedback on the County's plans. Commission discussed potential cultural considerations; limited parking availability and law enforcement considerations in areas designated for high-density housing; and expressed appreciation for the comprehensive nature of the plan.

4.2. Consider Adopting the AB-361 Statement of Findings Allowing Remote Meetings

Motion to approve statement of findings authorizing the Commission to hold their next meeting remotely under the provisions of Assembly Bill 361

Motion/Second: Mendez/De Santos

Motion passed unanimously.

5. Commissioner Reports

5.1. District 1 Report (Flores-Martinez):

Flores-Martinez reported that the walking for wellness project is ending, and the Pure Water Soquel project is ongoing. Most community member questions about the Sustainability Planning presentation center around housing, recreation, and transportation.

5.2. District 2 Report (Peinado):

Peinado introduced himself and provided some background information.

5.3. District 3 Report (Silva-Robles): No Report

5.4. District 4 Report (De Santos):

De Santos introduced himself and requested additional information about community resources for recreational transportation.

5.5. District 5 Report (Gomez):

Gomez reported that the RTC website is conducting an online survey to improve transportation safety in the Hwy 9 corridor around school sites and requested that the Commission's website be updated to include photos and bios for Commissioners.

5.6. Santa Cruz City Report (Hernandez):

Hernandez encouraged Commissioners and members of the public to avoid the UCSC area during the upcoming weekend as they will be holding the first in-person graduation ceremonies.

5.7. Watsonville City Report (Mendez):

Mendez reported that Watsonville hospital is operating but \$12M is still needed to purchase it. Driscoll has offered to match donations. There is doubt that Dominican could manage the influx of patients if Watsonville Hospital cannot continue to serve the community. Between 30-40 babies are born at Watsonville Hospital each month.

5.8. Watsonville City Report (Garcia): No Report

6. Staff Report:

Staff reported that in mid-June, the City of Santa Cruz will vote on a nominee to represent them on the Commission after which the Board of Supervisors must formally appoint them to the Commission. Quantitative analysis of the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Employee Survey data has been completed and qualitative analysis of survey commentary to identify trends and disparities is ongoing. The EEO Office hopes to be able to share aggregate results at the next meeting. Dr. Robert Ratner (County Housing Director) is scheduled to present on the County's efforts to address homelessness at the August meeting. County has updated their branding parameters and Commissioners are encouraged to provide bio paragraphs and photographs that they would like added to the Commission's membership page. Commission will discuss establishing a Strategic Action Plan Subcommittee during the August meeting.

Commission held a moment of silence to honor the victims of the recent school shooting in Uvalde, Texas, most of whom were members of the Latino community.

7. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 7:25 PM.

Submitted by: Kaite McGrew, *Commissions Manager*