

DRAFT
SUNSHINE ORDINANCE TASK FORCE
MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING
Wednesday, December 2, 1998

Please note: all actions that were adopted by the Task Force are underlined.

The special meeting of the Sunshine Ordinance Task Force was called **to** order by Chair David Pilpel, at **4:08** pm on Wednesday, December 2, 1998.

Item 1. Call to Order/Roll Call

Members present: Angela Armstrong, Johnny **Brannon**, Hilda Bernstein, Bruce Brugmann, **Ruach Graffis**, David Pilpel, Robert Planthold, Tuesday Ray, David Watkins

Ex-officio members present: Rachel Arnstine **O'Hara**, Gloria Young

Staff Counsel to the Task Force: Susan Frankel

Members absent: Nancy Sutley, Nicole Wong

Item 2. Chair's Introductory Remarks

Pilpel noted that this meeting had been rescheduled **from** the regular November meeting.

Item 3. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the October 21, 1998 meeting were **approved** with the correction that in listing attendees. Susan Frankel should not be referred to as an ex-officio member. but as staff counsel.

Item 4. Report of the Clerk,

a. Complaint Log

b. Communications Log

O'Hara passed out the complaint log. **O'Hara** noted that two complaints received **from** Ms. Hart were not Sunshine related. A summary of the complaint **from** Ms. Thompson was in the log. Frankel sent a letter to Ms. Kohler seeking chtrification related to her complaint. Frankel sent information regarding the Sunshine Ordinance **to** the City of San Jose. **O'Hara noted** the receipt of several immediate disclosure requests and that an immediate disclosure request was denied by the News Rack Task Force. **O'Hara** noted that Task Force meetings for 1999 will be held on the third Wednesday of the month in Room 400 at City Hall.

Item 5. Task Force Members' Questions and Comments

Bernstein asked that an item be placed on next month's agenda to discuss structure and organization of the Task Force. Planthold reminded members of the importance of attending meetings and achieving a quorum so that the Task Force can conduct its business.

Item 6. Review Pending Legislation at the Board of Supervisors concerning the Sunshine Ordinance and Consideration of Comment to the Board of Supervisors relative thereto

a. Amos Brown proposal to amend section 67.30 to add two members to the Sunshine Ordinance Task Force, one from the general public and one representative of the minority press or electronic media.

Pilpel reported that Supervisor Brown and his **staff** could not attend the meeting to discuss the proposal because of scheduling conflicts, instead Supervisor Brown sent a letter which Pilpel read to the Task Force. The letter stated that Supervisor Brown introduced his legislation to increase diversity in Task Force membership and by adding seats would not affect currently allocated seats. The letter **defines** minority press as news organizations serving communities of color and electronic media as that owned by people of color. **Brannon** stated that this was a more constructive approach than the original proposal. Watkins stated his concern that adding seats might make the Task Force's business harder to conduct and harder to achieve a quorum. Several members noted that the proposal could increase participation. Pilpel opined that this proposal was unnecessary at this time. During public comment, Knee suggested that nominations come from organizations representing the minority media. Darmanan noted that the Board itself could appoint people of color, rather than increasing the size of the Task Force. Harris raised concerns about who are considered people of color. Calabro suggested the definitions include ethnic press. **Brannon** suggesting including members representing the press serving immigrant communities.

Bernstein offered and Watkins seconded a motion to endorse the amendment and suggesting that the minority press seat be filled by soliciting nominations by professional organizations representing the minority press. Brannon suggested discussing with Supervisor a proposal to designate a seat for immigrant press. The motion failed by a vote of 4 to 5. Brannon offered and Bernstein a motion to recommend that Supervisor Brown amend his proposal to have professional organizations representing the minority press nominate a member and that one seat be reserved for an immigrant journalist of no defined ethnicity. The motion failed by a vote of 5 to 4 because 6 votes are necessary for passage.

Pilpel stated that he would communicate verbally and in writing the Task Force discussion and the lack of resolution or response to Supervisor Brown. He also stated that he would relate the Task Force's continuing desire to discuss the proposal with Supervisor Brown or his staff in person and the belief that discussion might facilitate the Task Force coming to some resolution on this matter.

Item 7. Discussion with Supervisor Leland Yee regarding increasing public participation at City Boards and Commissions, including the Board of Supervisors in particular

Supervisor Yee expressed concern that public participation in City Boards and Commissions, including the Board of Supervisors and its committees was limited. The primary barriers appear

to be when meetings are held and how meetings allow for public comment. Neighborhood meetings may be desirable, If one potential solution is to hold meetings in the evening, child care can become an issue. In addition, Supervisor Yee noted that there could be diiculties for people who need translation because of an advanced notice requirement. The Supervisor did not have a specific legislative proposal, was seeking input and asked that anyone with suggestions contact his Chief of Staff, Michelle Olson at 554-7752, by fax 554-775 1 or by e-mail at Michele_Olson@ci.sf.ca.us. **Brugmann** noted that items are sometimes continued during meetings and **this** causes problems for people who are waiting for items to be heard. **Planthold** referred to the Dyrnally-Alatorre Act that requires local bodies to provide translation services but does not mention advanced notice requirements. **Bernstein** noted that sometimes during the course of meeting, the time allotted for individuals to comments is cut short or not all persons are heard.

Public Comment on Items Not on the Agenda (5:35 pm)

Calabro, **from** the European-American Issues Forum, stated that he had not yet received a response to his public records request for statistics on the District Attorney's prosecution of hate crimes. He expressed that he felt the requested information could provided through redacted documents rather than creation of new documents which cannot be required under the Sunshine Ordinance. **Partanski** informed the Task Force about a UC-Berkeley semi-monthly publication on California government activities.

Item 8. Continued consideration of San Franciscans for Sunshine proposed Sunshine Ordinance amendments relating to public meetings (Article 2 of the Ordinance).

Continued until next month.

Item 9. Continued consideration of San Franciscans for Sunshine proposed Sunshine Ordinance amendments relating to general policies (Article 1) and policy implementation (Article 4).

Continued until next month.

Item 10. Review schedule and agenda items for the next meeting.

- Structure and organization of the Task Force.
- Consideration of proposals by San Franciscans for Sunshine.

Item 11. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at **5:55** pm.