



**San Francisco Youth Commission
Civic Engagement Committee
Minutes ~ Draft**

Monday, September 30, 2019

4:00~6:00 PM

City Hall, Room 270

1. Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Pl.

San Francisco, CA 94102

There will be public comment on each item.

Members: Valentina Alioto-Pier, Ariana Arana, Crystal Chan, Sarah Cheung, Sarah Ginsburg, Arianna Nassiri, Stephen “Rocky” Versace

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 4:01pm. Commissioners present: Valentina Alioto-Pier, Arianna Arana, Sarah Cheung, Sarah Ginsburg, Arianna Nassiri, Stephen “Rocky” Versace. Commissioners absent: Crystal Chan. Commissioner Versace, seconded by Commissioner Ginsburg, motioned to excuse Commissioner Chan’s absence.

Staff present: Kiely. There was quorum.

2. Approval of Agenda (Action Item)

Commissioner Cheung, seconded by Commissioner Versace, moved to approve the agenda. There was no public comment. The motion was approved by acclamation. Commissioner Arana noted that her name is spelled Ariana and not Arianna.

3. Approval of Minutes (Action Item)

A. July 23, 2019

[\(Document A\)](#)

Commissioner Alioto-Pier, seconded by Commissioner Arana, moved to approve the minutes. There was no public comment. The motion was approved by acclamation.

4. Public Comment on Items not on Agenda (Discussion Only)

There was no public comment.

5. Business (All Items to Follow Discussion and Possible Action)

A. Team Building Activity



The Commissioner engaged in a team building activity. Commissioner Nassiri also engaged the group with this question:

What does civic engagement mean to you and why are you a part of the Civic Engagement Committee?

Commissioner Ginsburg-there is a misperception that adults are more opinionated or knowledgeable than youth and youth can be interested in issues, too, to make a difference. Thinks that being engaged civically is closely connected to Vote16 work.

Commissioner Alioto-Pier-getting people more engaged in government and having more of a voice and using it. CEC is a bigger way to use your voice when underage, feels a lot less scary to be involved, and can do it without trying hard.

Commissioner Arana-taking what you care about and doing something about it. Real change.

Commissioner Nassiri-knowing you have a voice, getting the right to vote and have a say, expand the electorate. Essential and trailblazing work that CEC has done and is doing. More folks can related to this particular topic with a lot of crossover to create a cornerstone.

Staff-focus on community being the instigators of their own change and the solvers of their own problems. A way to push for institutional change, especially for communities that have historically been left out of the right to vote.

Commissioner Versace-outlet of how to express opinion, learn how to effect change. Tired of being told that because he's young he doesn't know things until he's older. Wants to show people that youth do know what they're talking about and deserve to be heard.

Commissioner Cheung- bridging the gap between government and the people. Climate strikes and youth led strikes showing that youth are front runners and push for what they believe in and have own beliefs, deserve to be represented, especially since youth are already involved and doing work.

B. Review Group Agreements

Commissioners reviewed group agreements. The group agreed that accountability is important and can do peer to peer accountability in a way that doesn't always have to bring in chair, vice chair, or staff.

C. Review Vote16 Campaign

- a. History + Context
 - i. [Video 1](#)
 - ii. [Video 2](#)
- b. Timeline
- c. Setting Intentions & Harvesting Goals

Commissioner Nassiri led the group through the previous CEC and Vote16 work from 2016-present. A current draft timeline was shared and questions answered (how do you sway a supervisor? What happens in a stakeholder meeting? Does campaigning happen at schools?).



Intentions and goals were tabled for next meeting.

D. Committee Officer Elections

Chair

Commissioner Alioto-Pier nominated Commissioner Nassiri, seconded by Commissioner Versace. Commissioner Nassiri accepts the nomination. Commissioner Nassiri shared why she would be a good chair: she was the chair last year for CEC and now sees how important it is for youth to be involved in democracy and to expand the electorate. It's unconstitutional for youth to be denied this right, and will work to leave a legacy with the committee on Vote16 work.

Questions: none. A vote was taken by acclamation. All in favor.

Commissioner Nassiri is elected Chair of the Civic Engagement Committee with unanimous 6 of 6 votes.

Vice Chair

Commissioner Nassiri, seconded by Commissioner Cheung, nominated Commissioner Versace to serve as Committee Vice Chair. Commissioner Versace accepts the nomination.

Commissioner Versace shared why he would be a good vice chair: he loves the idea of Vote16 and wants to get it through to completion. He is experienced with campaigning and wants to assist Arianna with the chair role. He is outspoken and would be good to have a collective voice that he can share for the group.

Questions:

Commissioner campaigning have you done? Rocky has done campaigning for Mayor Breed's campaign and Theo Ellington's run for D10 supervisor last year.

A vote was taken by acclamation. All in favor.

Commissioner Versace is elected Vice Chair of the Civic Engagement Committee with unanimous 6 of 6 votes.

E. CEC related news

- a. [SFUSD blocking youth who wanted to participate in climate](#) strike

Keep in mind newsworthy things that pertain to civic engagement issues. It will be good for the group to be aware of as we move forward with the Vote16 campaign. Someone could also write a motion saying they support SFUSD youth who are striking as a way to show support and let the district know where the YC stands on this particular issue.

6. Staff Report

-Coleman Advocates District Attorney Forum has moved to October 25th. Who can make that date instead of the original October 8th date? Ariana, Valentina, Sarah G (?), Sarah C., Rocky, Arianna N (?)

-Youth Funding Youth Ideas grant is now available for up to \$10000. Is CEC interested? If so, we dedicated time on our October 15th agenda.

-Our CEC meeting on is on October 15th and not the 14th due to holiday



7. Executive Committee Report

Traditionally this role is held by the Vice Chair of the committee to report back to the full Youth Commission meeting. Please have 2-3 sentence summary of what was discussed and what your peers need to know.

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:59pm.