



**San Francisco Youth Commission  
Civic Engagement Committee  
Minutes - Draft  
Monday, September 21, 2020  
4:30-6:30 PM**

**Public Comment Call-in:  
+1 415-906-4659  
United States, San Francisco (toll)  
Conference ID: 812 597 43#**  
*There will be public comment on each item.*

Members: Valentina Alioto-Pier, Arianna Arana, Sarah Cheung, Sarah Ginsburg, Stephen "Rocky" Versace, Adrianna Zhang

**1. Call to Order and Roll Call**

The meeting was called to order at 4:34 pm. Commissioners present: Valentina Alioto-Pier, Arianna Arana, Sarah Cheung, Sarah Ginsburg, Stephen "Rocky" Versace, Adrianna Zhang.

Staff present: Kiely & Evelyn. There was quorum.

**2. Approval of Agenda (Action Item)**

Commissioner Cheung, seconded by Commissioner Ginsburg, moved to approve the agenda. There was no public comment. The motion was approved by roll call vote:

Valentina Alioto-Pier, aye  
Arianna Arana, aye  
Sarah Cheung, aye  
Sarah Ginsburg, aye  
Stephen "Rocky" Versace, aye  
Adrianna Zhang, aye

**3. Approval of Minutes (Action Item)**

**A. February 24, 2020**  
[\(Document A\)](#)

Commissioner Versace, seconded by Commissioner Alioto- Pier, moved to approve the minutes. There was no public comment. The motion was approved by roll call vote:



Valentina Alioto-Pier, aye  
Arianna Arana, aye  
Sarah Cheung, aye  
Sarah Ginsburg, aye  
Stephen “Rocky” Versace, aye  
Adrianna Zhang, aye

#### **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 Commissioners engaged in a team building activity.

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

Valentina Alioto-Pier-

Civic engagement is doing something towards an issue that you care about as long as you are engaged in what you're doing. I am a part of civic engagement because I loved it last year and I got connected to Vote 16 and civic engagement.

Arianna Arana-

Civic engagement is either a group of people or individuals doing work to make impactful change. I am on the committee because I love Vote 16 and the people in the committee.

Sarah Cheung-

Civic engagement can be individual or with an organization but all deals with being engaged civically or within your community. Anyone can be civically engaged, especially young people. There are many different avenues to being civic engaged. I am here because this is the best commitment and I am very passionate about Vote16.

Sarah Ginsburg-

Civic engagement means individual and collective action that can make change. Doing your part in order to make greater change. I am here because I had a positive experience last year and I enjoy focusing on goals rather than lots of goals.

Stephen “Rocky” Versace-

Civic engagement is going out there and giving a voice to people. On an individual level making sure when we see something we agree or disagree with, we get involved. I am back because I loved working with Vote 16 and campaigning because it was a thrill.

Adrianna Zhang-



Civic engagement is having an opportunity for people to get involved and make change outside of talking about the issue. It allows people to get out and solve the issues. I am here because I blurted out civic engagement and stuck with it. I would rather be on this committee because of Vote 16 and it applies most to my life and the people in my life.

Kiely- “Nothing about us without us”. Making sure I use my power and privilege especially for young people. Civic engagement includes voting, community organizing, marching. Have been working on Vote 16 for the last 4 years.

Evelyn- Civic engagement is working with, never above or below. I am here because I think this applies most to my goals and Vote 16.

- B. Political Education
  - a. YelloPain – [My Vote Don't Count](#)
  - b. YelloPain ft. Sevyn Streeter – [My Vote Will Count](#)

What stood out for you?

Commissioner Cheung- I think the message is powerful and relevant to the current campaign. One of the questions I got recently in an interview was if we franchise 16 and 17 years old how do we know they will vote? I think the message is captured in the video because young people are civically engaged.

Commissioner Versace- I did some phone banking over the summer and there were a lot of people who were not going to vote because they were unaware of the props and measures. What YelloPain was signing was very accurate even in a politically engaged city like San Francisco.

What feelings did you feel?

Commissioner Zhange- I think it was very powerful especially in the second video. It was very elegant and presented in a sophisticated manner that intrigued my attention.

Commissioner Ginsburgh- I had a realization watching that because certain communities gain benefits and it can be easy to forget if it doesn't impact you.

How does it apply to CEC?

Commissioner Alioto-Pier- For CEC we are trying to go out and vote and to care about what is happening in San Francisco. The city showed how people complain about what is happening in their cities but do not get out to vote which is relevant in San Francisco.

How does this apply to SF?

Commissioner Versace- Making sure people have accessible access to knowledge. The way the song was presented was easy to understand but very elegant. Civic engagement is to get communities involved in decision making.

Director Hosmon- Freedom riders were reflected in the video. I know a lot of voter mobilization strategies were taken from voter engagement in the 1960s.



## C. Setting Intentions & Harvesting Goals

### a. Group agreements

Commissioner Versace- We are adapting to new systems. I think we should let the people choose their camera situation as everyone experiences this differently. Also, a lack of participation from the end of the term last year. We need to make sure we are participating and fully engaging.

Commissioner Cheung- Sharing your access needs. It can be difficult to be present during virtual meetings but it is needed to get goals completed. You should keep in mind the Youth Commission is a community that can affect others. We should meet on a consistent basis.

Commissioner Alioto-Pier- You should be patient with everyone and be open to sharing your needs.

Commissioner Ginsburg- We will have a lot of media opportunities this Fall and should have accountability and distribution. If we can agree on being involved, those opportunities can be effective.

- Dealer's choice on cameras
- Be engaged (as much as possible)
- Patience/flexibility/transparency
- Accountability
- Equitable distribution of responsibility
- 72 hour advance notice for posting

### b. CEC Mission Statement

Commissioner Zhang- A mission statement is a few words or short sentence that describe your mission.

Commissioner Versace- I suggest removing the Vote 16 part as we are not working on the campaign.

Commissioner Ginsburg- I think our mission is going to change after November, therefore, I agree with removing the Vote 16 part of the sentence.

Commissioner Cheung- We do our best work when we collaborate with one another. We are unaware of our work till next year because it depends on the election.

Last year's mission statement was: The Civic Engagement Committee inspires youth to participate in San Francisco's democracy by expanding youth civic representation via Vote16.

Current mission statement will be decided on a later date post election day.

### c. Parent/Teacher Association (PTA) Request



Director Hosmon- Commissioner Versace and his involvement with a PTA request in relation to Vote 16. When I hear back from the PTA political secretary I will reach out to the committee and discuss any future responsibilities.

D. Committee Officer Elections

**Chair**

Commissioner Zhang nominated Commissioner Versace, seconded by Commissioner Alioto-Pier. Commissioner Versace accepts the nomination. Commissioner Ginsburg nominated Commissioner Cheung, seconded by Commissioner Zhang. Commissioner Cheung accepts the nomination.

Commissioner Versace shared why he would be a good chair:

Commissioner Versace- I am running because I am devoted to the committee and what we do. Last year as a vice chair I performed the best through equity between members. Last year we did a lot of learning together with mostly newcomers. As chair I would eliminate top down dynamic and ensure all voices are heard. I believe we all have knowledge in the committee. I think community outreach improved by being more direct. As chair I promised to never turn down ideas because we all have knowledge. At the end of the day everyones knows my commitment and care for this committee.

Commissioner Cheung shared why she would be a good chair: I am running for chair because of my experience and care about our community. This past year I have worked nonstop in the Vote 16 campaign and was not aware of the work I would put behind the campaign. It was the collaboration that helped me find my voice. We prepared meetings, reached out to organizations, and cheered when it was placed on the ballot. I think we are the best committee. As chair I will make sure people feel the power I did to take on Vote 16 commitments. I will put in time and passion in the position. I have been involved with the inner workings of the campaign.

Questions: none. A vote was taken by roll call vote:

Valentina Alioto-Pier, Cheung  
Ariana Arana, Cheung  
Sarah Cheung, Cheung  
Sarah Ginsburg, Cheung  
Stephen "Rocky" Versace, Versace  
Adrianna Zhang, Versace

Cheung-4  
Versace- 2

Commissioner Cheung is elected Chair of the Civic Engagement Committee with 4 to 2 votes.

**Vice Chair**

Commissioner Cheung nominated Commissioner Ginsburg, seconded by Commissioner Versace. Commissioner Ginsburg accepts the nomination.



Commissioner Zhang nominated Commissioner Versace, seconded by Commissioner Ginsburg. Commissioner Versace declines the nomination.

Commissioner Ginsburg shared why she would be a good chair: I am running for vice chair. Through my first year I did not participate as much as I liked but still passionate. It took me a while to display my commitment due to my own insecurities. However, as I reflect on my last years experience I reflect on my growth. After the measure was placed on the ballot I still continued to do a lot in my capacity. I seek the leadership positions as an outlet to channel my commitment to Vote 16. When Vote 16 passes I have many plans and want to foster an environment where we feel comfortable with one another.

Questions: none. A vote was taken by roll call vote:

Valentina Alioto-Pier, Sarah G.  
Ariana Arana, Sarah G.  
Sarah Cheung, Sarah G.  
Sarah Ginsburg, Sarah G.  
Stephen "Rocky" Versace, Sarah G.  
Adrianna Zhang, Sarah G.

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

No public comment.

E. CEC related news

There was no related news to report. No public comment.

## **6. Staff Report**

-EC meeting on Wednesday. Turn in your feedback for the SDDTAC youth seat if you'd like a say. No public comment.

## **7. Executive Committee Report**

-This is the time for those that sit on EC to give a report back if there is anything CEC needs to be aware of. No public comment.

## **8. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:22 pm.