



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

Tuesday, November 12, 2019

4:30-6:30 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 4:37pm. Commissioners present: Sarah Cheung, Sarah Ginsburg, Stephen “Rocky” Versace, Arianna Nassiri, Valentina Alioto-Pier, Ariana Arana. Commissioners tardy: Crystal Chan.

Staff present: Kiely. There was quorum.

2. Approval of Agenda (Action Item)

Commissioner Versace, seconded by Commissioner Arana, moved to approve the agenda. There was no public comment. The motion was approved by acclamation.

3. Approval of Minutes (Action Item)

A. October 28, 2019

[\(Document A\)](#)

Commissioner Alioto-Pier, seconded by Commissioner Ginsburg, 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 Commissioners engaged in a team building activity.

B. Review Group Agreements



Commissioners reviewed group agreements and decided to take this item off the agenda for future meetings.

C. Mission Statement Review

CEC discussed if there mission statement should be more generic or specific and concluded that for this year it should be specific:

The Civic Engagement Committee inspires youth to participate in San Francisco's democracy by expanding youth civic representation via Vote16.

D. Vote16 Campaign

a. Building Power and Agency Training Part II

Staff led the commissioners in a mini training focused on the purpose, framing, and message of Vote16. The curriculum and reference is from POWER CA who is leading a statewide movement on Vote16 efforts. The information below should also be considered with a SF lens when utilized.

KEY FRAMING

- Young people of color are already leaders in their families and communities. .
- Young people are ready to vote and politically engaged -- our voting systems and civics education need to be more accessible and relevant
- A 16 year old in 2019 possess wisdom and maturity that comes from 2019 hardships, challenges and threats .
- It's critical to our democracy that young people make voting a habit earlier and often.

NOTES

- Key is to talk about "expanding voting rights" not "lowering the voting age"
- Using key larger campaign framing of "Ready to Vote"
- Never want to reinforce negative messages around young people not voting and not caring about civic engagement

HASHTAGS (general)

- #readytovote
- #16tovote

HASHTAGS (SF)

- #vote16SF
- #vote16SF2020

TALKING POINTS

- I am a part of a national movement to expand voting rights to 16 and 17 year olds that is supported by many elected officials including governors, congressional leaders, and presidential candidates.
- Evidence shows that at 16 and 17 we have the same civic knowledge as 21 year olds when it comes to voting. In many other countries and in several U.S. localities young people already vote at 16 and demonstrate that we're ready to vote.
- At 16, we can drive, pay taxes, and work without major restrictions for the first time. Even



before 18 we can join the military and obtain federal loans. We have a stake in the game and should be able to vote.

- In the last 2 years 200,000 16 and 17 year old Californians pre-registered to vote. In 2018 we saw a 329% increase from 2014 turnout in young people 18-24 -- this demonstrates that we're ready to engage in our democracy right now!
- We're already leaders in our families and communities - we play critical roles like translating for parents, contributing financially, taking care of siblings, and even serving on community boards and commissions - it's clear we are and should be trusted with major responsibilities.
- 16 is a more common sense age to vote than 18. At 16 and 17 we're learning about civics and government in class, which makes it a better time to learn about voting for the first time.
- Data from other elections show that when 16 and 17 year olds vote, we vote at higher rates than 18-21 year olds. If we vote in our first few consecutive elections we can become lifetime voters. Allowing us to vote earlier and often will have dramatic long-term benefits for our democracy.
- California is home to more than 2 million undocumented individuals. If our families are made up of parents that are undocumented or non-citizen residents - entire families may lack elected representation in schools and communities. Allowing those of us that come from mixed-status families to vote is critical to ensuring representation.
- There will be initial increase in costs for ballot production but we do special elections all the time and incur similar costs. It's hard to weigh these costs against the potential to dramatically strengthen our democracy for generations to come.
- We are independent and form our own opinions shaped by our own experiences that in many cases are very different from our parents and other adults. Concerns around adult influence over our votes are overstated. For example, in the Scottish elections 60% of 16 and 17 year olds voted different than their parents.

Commissioners practiced identifying a target and choosing which messaging they would use and the examples for why they're working on Vote16.

b. Stakeholder Discussion + Brainstorm

Draft outline + roles:

- | | |
|--|-----------------------------|
| ❖ Introductions (name, pronouns, org. + one get to know you question) | Sarah C. |
| ❖ Icebreaker | Sarah C. |
| ❖ Who's at the Table? (possible 4 corners activity or another activity that let's the group know who is in the room being represented) | Ariana A. |
| ❖ Timeline of Vote16 (context and history overview) | Sarah G. and Crystal |
| ❖ Break Outs (should be action oriented with requests for commitment - signatures, presentations to youth groups, etc.) | Valentina |
| ❖ Debrief/Next Steps | Rocky and Arianna N. |

CEC identified Vegan Picnic to cater half of the meeting and Kiely to order Dim Sum. Budget estimated is to be around \$300 but ok to go a little over that if needed.

To Do:

-Kiely: help organize the structure, give feedback and resources, coordinate logistics, find larger room, pay for food and help order food, help Commissioners with timing



-Arianna N. – send out previous stakeholder agenda as a visual, create a google doc, reach out to CEC regarding a working group session since November 25th won't work
-everyone have their segment outlined by November 25th

E. CEC related news

None this week.

6. Staff Report

- November 25th meeting attendance needed. Most commissioners will not be able to attend that day. We will need to identify an alternate date and/or host a working group session for the stakeholder meeting prep
- HLU is hosting their 29R meeting with the SFMTA from 5-7pm at Lick Wilmerding H.S. Start thinking ahead that if you want your colleagues to support your work/events, you should be supporting theirs.
- Boundary workshop mini debrief-commissioners liked it. Wanted to know if they can remind fellow Commissioners about capacity before they co sponsor or support something that requests a particular number for attendance.
- BLING money is being used by other YC committees who are helping to do outreach for Vote16 at their events
- YFYI grant interview scheduling needs to happen. Staff should not be the one taking lead on this. It is very important to the grant givers that youth are stepping forward on this and it is not staff led. Sarah will take lead on communication and responding back with an interview time.

7. Executive Committee Report

Rocky will be lead on this and report back.

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:43pm.