San Francisco Youth Commission
Transformative Justice Committee
Special Agenda
~Draft Minutes~
Monday, October 08th, 2020
5:00-7:00 PM

Public Comment Call-in:
+1 415-906-4659
United States, San Francisco (toll)
Conference ID: 300 514 790#

There will be public comment on each item.

Members: Arsema Asfaw, Nora Hylton, Rome Jones (Chair), Gabbie Listana, Amara Santos, Gracie Veiga (Vice Chair)

1. Call to Order & Roll Call

Chair Jones calls the meeting to order at 5:03 pm. Quorum is met.

2. Approval of Agenda (Action Item)

There is no public comment on this item. Commissioner Hylton motions to approve of the agenda, seconded by Commissioner Listana. By roll call vote, the motion passes.

Arsema Asfaw, aye
Nora Hylton, aye
Rome Jones, aye
Gabbie Listana, aye
Amara Santos, aye
Gracie Veiga, aye

3. Approval of Minutes (Action Item)

A. September 21st, 2020

(Document A)

There is no public comment on this item. Commissioner Veiga motions to approve the September 21st, 2020 minutes, seconded by Commissioner Asfaw. By roll call vote, the motion passes.
4. Public Comment (Discussion Only)
No public comment.

5. Youth Commission Business

A. Relationship Building Activity

led by Chair Rome Jones

Commissioner Jones leads the committee into an activity that has the commissioners sharing a bit more about themselves. You are to hold the floor for 3 minutes. You can use the leftover time to question the Commissioners.

The questions are as follows: Who are you?..Really..Who are you!, What have you lived through? (good and/or bad), What experiences have shaped you? What experiences have changed you as a person? What do you believe in? What are the most important values and beliefs that you have and why? Where are you going? What is in the future for you?

Commissioners got a chance to get to know each other and share more about themselves.

B. Power Mapping

led by Vice Chair Gracie Veiga and Staff Truong

Commissioner Veiga and Staff Truong went through the powermapping presentation and went over the different actions TJ has done and can do. Commissioners discussed the quote “if you aren’t at the table, you are on the menu” To me, the statement means that no matter how much someone agreeing with you might try to represent you, having the unique experience of being you and being where decisions are made means volumes more. All too often, if you aren't part of the decision making, you will likely get left out, or worse yet, get served on the menu. Commissioners discussed about Shirley Chisholm, who was the first Black woman elected to the U.S. Congress and the first Black candidate to seek a major party nomination for president, once advised “if they don’t give you a seat at the table, bring a folding chair.” Chisholm’s words are a timely and emboldened reminder that we can’t wait for an invitation to claim a seat at the table. It is our responsibility to bring our own chairs, bodies and insistent voices into the room and demand space, because government at its most effective is not a place of privilege, but a place where all people claim their space at the table. Again, do not wait for an invitation, make your own table.

Powermapping is helpful to give people a framework and a set of tools to think about how to make social change through the context and relationships within the sphere where they work. Power-mapping can help you to identify targets and focus your strategy. The idea is to map out your potential targets, and the institutions and individuals who influence your target, so you can begin to understand possible ways to impact them.
We need to flip the traditional view of power. Power flows up. We knock out the pillars of support. This is a different view of “people power” than people merely working together to try to persuade powerholders to change. Instead it uses the specific strategy of conversion of allies to destabilise power. By analyzing our targets using this way of viewing power, we may see new pillars we can “remove” from the system—and also better analyze who power sources we have relationships and access to in order to force change. This is a different view of “people power” than people merely working together to try to persuade powerholders to change. Instead it uses the specific strategy of conversion of allies to destabilise power. By analyzing our targets using this way of viewing power, we may see new pillars we can “remove” from the system—and also better analyze who power sources we have relationships and access to in order to force change.

Commissioners Asfaw and Santos shared more about their public comment process, the resolution to defund sfpd, and their letter of support to #freevaleria as potential tools!

C. Action Planning

i. Opportunities to Plug In
Commissioners are open to working on these TJ goals for the year: Defundspfd, budget reallocation “people’s budget sf?., Holding legislators accountable, and stronger relationship with community organizations, Call 3 officials to meet with us (ex: police chief scott), Work more with community orgs and show TJ as a community group (by the people, for the people, with the people), Reaching out to community orgs and working with orgs, Branching out and figuring out where that budget is getting allocated, and education and means of prevention mass incarceration cycles.

ii. Calendar

Upcoming event is the Abolition in Action resource fair. For this month’s Abolition in Action event, No New SF Jail Coalition is organizing an in-person event to engage with our unhoused and street-based community. We are fundraising to give money directly to our unhoused neighbors at this event. In October, they’ll be hosting a resource fair for street-based folks in the Tenderloin with GLIDE SF. They’ll have tables with different resource information folks can access, along with resource specialists and organizations folks can speak directly with. They’ll also be distributing food, screen-printing free shirts with our “Care Not Cages” and “Libertad” stencils, sharing health and harm reduction supplies, talking about abolition, and listening to people’s stories and visions for a jail-free city.

Commissioner Hylton, Veiga, Listana, and Staff Truong are open to support the event. Commissioner Santos motions to support the Abolition in Action resource fair, seconded by Commissioner Hylton. By a roll call vote, the motion passes.

Arsema Asfaw, aye
Nora Hylton, aye
Rome Jones, aye
Gabbie Listana, aye
Amara Santos, aye
Gracie Veiga, aye
Commissioner Hylton, Veiga, Listana, and Staff Truong are open to support the event.

D. Local Reportback

Nothing to report at this moment.

6. Staff Report

Staff Truong will be out of office from 10/12 – 10/20. Please reach out to other staff. Please do your weekly form in the weekly internal. Please download signal.

7. Community Announcements

Nothing to report.

8. Appreciations

- NH - i appreciate everyone during this busy time
- GV - stressful i know everyone's going through a lot
- AA - appreciate our chairs and austin for our well done presentation and time
- AS - everyone's presence and the meeting isn't required but nice to be virtual with everyone
- RJ - appreciate everyone to being open to answering our questions even when personal
- GL - be here esp. Special meeting and putting their time at work
- AT - grateful for asema's reminders

9. Adjournment

Chair Rome adjourns the meeting at 6:50pm.