



**Commission Meeting
MINUTES**

Monday, October 2, 2017, 6:00 pm
1485 Civic Court, Suite 1200
Large Conference Room
Concord, CA

1.0 Call to Order and Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 6:06 PM.

Sean Casey welcomed District 1 Alternate Commissioner Trisha Mindel to her first Commission meeting. Chairwoman Kathy Gallagher began with introductions.

Commissioners in attendance were: Trisha Mindel for District 1, Marilyn Lucey, Lee Ross for PJ Shelton, Gareth Ashley, John Jones, Wanda Session for Dr. William Walker, and Kathy Marsh.

Also present was County Counsel Keiko Kobayashi.

Absent were Commissioners PJ Shelton, Dr. William Walker, Supervisor Federal Glover, and alternates Matt Regan, Katharine Mason and Supervisor Candace Andersen.

2.0 Public Comment

Mary Rocha, community leader from Antioch thanked First 5 Contra Costa for being a community partner in helping educate many of the residents in family child development information and health – reaching Spanish-speaking families who were just starting to establish their young children and families in the community. She expressed concern over the planned move of the First 5 Centers in Antioch and in Bay Point to a new consolidated location and how it might leave behind families that do not have the ability to travel far. She asked the Commission to re-consider the plan to move.

Leslie Gleason of Shelter Inc. reported another success story of a young family who is successfully moving out of the shelter to a more permanent home.

3.0 Approval of Consent Calendar

A motion to approve the consent calendar was made by John Jones and seconded by Kathy Marsh.

AYES: Trisha Mindel for District 1, Marilyn Lucey, Lee Ross for PJ Shelton, Gareth Ashley, John Jones, Wanda Session for Dr. Walker, Kathy Gallagher and Kathy Marsh.

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

Motion was **APPROVED**.

5.0 Consider accepting the Fiscal Year 2016-2017 Financial Audit.

Chairwoman Kathy Gallagher opened the public hearing on the First 5 Contra Costa Annual Financial Audit 2016-2017. The report was given by auditor James Ramsey, of the accounting firm Vavrinek, Trine, Day & Co.

He informed the Commission that gave a more detailed report on their audit to the Executive Committee meeting prior to the Commission meeting.

The Commission received an unmodified opinion, which is the highest form of opinion, on all the financial statements, with no findings. There were no material weaknesses and no issues with internal controls. No instances of non-compliance found.

There were no questions from the floor.

Chairwoman Kathy Gallagher closed the public hearing on the FY 2016-2017 Financial Audit.

A motion was made by Wanda Session and seconded by Kathy Marsh to accept the Annual Financial Audit for Fiscal Year 2016-2017.

AYES: Trisha Mindel for District 1, Marilyn Lucey, Lee Ross for PJ Shelton, Gareth Ashley, John Jones, Wanda Session for Dr. Walker, Kathy Gallagher and Kathy Marsh.

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

Motion was **APPROVED**.

6.0 Consider approving and authorizing the Executive Director to execute a purchase agreement for the property located at 355 East Leland Road in Pittsburg, in the amount of \$1,000,000, for the purpose of creating the East County First 5 Center, and to be funded from undesignated funds in the Commission's fund balance.

Sean Casey reported that the desire to secure a larger space in Pittsburg resulted from the success of the West County First 5 Center, which we hope to recreate in a permanent site in East County. Staff were also prompted by the increasing homeless activity at the Bay Point First 5 Center site, which is becoming burdensome for the staff and families who use the facilities there.

The proposed site is a former charter school located between Harbor Street and Railroad Avenue where there are many bus routes and excellent off-street parking. The property is solid but will require renovation. The property was originally listed for \$1.37 million. The funds to purchase this will originate from the "unassigned fund balance" of the budget. As of June 30, 2017, that balance was \$12,000,000. The planned renovation will be funded from the capital asset account that currently has \$848,000 balance as of June 2017. Staff asked the Commission to approve the four recommendations outlined on the staff report.

Wanda Session asked why the property was exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act under CEQA Guidelines section 15061(b)(3).

County Counsel Keiko Kobayashi informed that because of the planned use, a general exemption applies in situations where it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment.

Mary Rocha said that the location is also near a senior center and a dental office and is adjacent to the main thoroughfare.

Gareth Ashley made a motion and John Jones seconded to approve and authorize the Executive Director to execute the Purchase and Sale Agreement for the property located at 355 East Leland Road in Pittsburg, CA for



the amount of \$1,000,000, for the purpose of creating the East County First 5 Center, and to be funded from undesignated funds in the Commission's fund balance.

AYES: Trisha Mindel for District 1, Marilyn Lucey, Lee Ross for PJ Shelton, Gareth Ashley, John Jones, Wanda Session for Dr. Walker, Kathy Gallagher and Kathy Marsh.

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

Motion was **APPROVED**.

7.0 Consider proposed priorities and process for staff engagement in State and Federal legislative advocacy

Sean Casey put forward a proposed new process for First 5 Contra Costa's engagement in State and Federal advocacy activities. We have been moving more in this direction since the Commission's October 2016 retreat where there was strong support among Commission members to build up First 5's advocacy role. Other First 5s, including the First 5 Association of California, are also moving in this direction. However, since the legislative and Commission calendars do not always coincide, staff propose confirming First 5's policy priorities now for a broad confirmation of the Commission's interests. In the spring, staff will bring to the Commission the First 5 Association's legislative agenda and identify any of the Association's bill positions we might not agree with. Staff will also update the Commission on ongoing activities at each meeting.

For the coming year, staff proposed these three advocacy priorities:

- Seek **funding streams** for programs that support Contra Costa children and families.
- Strengthen and sustain **early childhood education, family support** and **early intervention** systems, programs and services.
- Support **policies that reduce poverty and inequity, and stabilize low-income families.**

Commissioners had several questions:

What will be the process of identifying bills that the Commission agrees or disagrees with? Sean noted that the Association's list could have as many as 40 to 50 bills and the likelihood is high that we will agree with their position on them. We would only be looking for anything where we wouldn't agree.

How will staff keep Commission informed on updates and on particular bills that First 5 Contra Costa is focused upon? Staff will keep Commission informed at each meeting on particular activities and on the ones we are following and remind which we had taken support on or opposed to.

What does it mean to "seek funding streams?" In order to sustain the work that we have started –for example QRIS, which is funded entirely by First 5 – we'll need to develop funding sources to sustain programs well into the future.

Are individual First 5s able to sponsor specific Bills? We have sponsored our first legislation this year, AB435, which was carried by Assemblymember Tony Thurmond.

What are our limitations on our focus? There are limitations on what we can use First 5 funds for. We cannot tell voters how to vote, but we can tell other public agencies (such as Legislature, or the Board of Supervisors) on where we stand or how we feel about certain policies.

Kathy Marsh made a motion and Lee Ross seconded to adopt proposed priorities and process for staff engagement in State and Federal legislative advocacy.

AYES: Trisha Mindel for District 1, Marilyn Lucey, Lee Ross for PJ Shelton, Gareth Ashley, John Jones, Wanda Session for Dr. Walker, Kathy Gallagher and Kathy Marsh.

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

Motion was **APPROVED**.

8.0 Executive Director's Report

Sean Casey started his report by ceding the floor to Commissioner John Jones, who announced that the East Bay Leadership Council named First 5 Contra Costa "**Outstanding Community Grant Maker**" for its 7th Annual Philanthropy Awards. The Award date is on November 9 at 7:30 AM at the Blackhawk Museum in Danville. A reception on October 18 from 4 to 6:30 pm in Walnut Creek will be sent soon to invite all staff and Commissioners for a photo session.

Stand Together Initiative

As mentioned at the last meeting, we supported the proposed Stand Together initiative to provide community education and rapid response activities for those at risk of deportation. In our letter to the Board we noted the importance of keeping families whole and healthy in a time of high anxiety for immigrant families. On September 19th, the Board of Supervisors voted unanimously to approve and partially fund the initiative. Our letter was cited several times by members of Board as a persuasive argument to support the measure. Members of our Regional Groups met with Board members and gave testimony to the program's impact on families with young children. Rhea Laughlin, our Community Engagement Program Officer also works closely on developing strategy with the entire coalition supporting the initiative. The program will launch in January 2018.

Monument First 5 Parking Lot

Over the last several months we have been in negotiation with the owner of the parking lot adjacent to the Monument First 5 Center, on Clayton Rd. Center staff and families have been able to park there for the last several years because the City of Concord has held a lease on the lot that provided the access. Last year the City asked to transfer the lease to First 5, which we agreed to do. In our negotiation with the owner's attorney, the terms were heightened, particularly around the area of ADA compliance and liability. While we were willing to pay to bring the sight into compliance, the liability standard that the owner required is unacceptable high and places the Commission at full risk for any suit brought on by anyone faulting the site's compliance. At this point, the existing lease with the City has expired, and the owner has notified us that they will no longer allow use of the lot for First 5 Center purposes. Staff are investigating other parking options in the area, including across the street, but the impact on families' access to the Center at this point is a concern.

AB435 Update:

AB435 is at the Governor's desk with the three other pilot bills. Our fellow advocates have joined us in sending him letters urging him to sign the bill; he has until October 15 to do so.

Upcoming events:

FESP with Mark DeSaulnier: The October 19 meeting of the Family Economic Security Partnership has a special guest. Congressman Mark DeSaulnier will be joining in a discussion of federal policy affecting families now and



in the future. That will be two weeks from Thursday at 9:00 am at the Willow Pass Community Center at 2748 E. Olivera Road, Concord.

Right Start Commission Town Hall with George Miller: Next Wednesday, DeSaulnier's predecessor, George Miller will be participating in a town hall organized by Common Sense Kids Action and the Right Start Commission on child care and early learning needs in Contra Costa and California. I will be on a panel joined by several local advocates. This event is at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Lafayette, 6:30 – 8:00 pm.

9.0 Communications

Kathy Gallagher informed that a copy of former District 1 Commissioner Maria Fort's thank you letter is included in the packet under item 9. Sean also informed that there was article last Friday on the park opening at the Meadow Homes.

10.0 Commissioner F.Y.I. Updates

Lee Ross announced that he is now representing First 5 Contra Costa on the Head Start Policy Council.

11.0 Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 7:11 pm