

**Peace and Justice Commission
Regular Meeting**

**North Berkeley Senior Center
June 3, 2002**

MINUTES

The meeting convened at 7:08 p.m. with Elliot Cohen, vice chairperson, presiding.

ROLL CALL

Present: Royya Arasteh, Donald Brody, Elliot Cohen, Sandy Curtis, Steven Freedkin, Mark McDonald, Robert Stephen Rose, Thom Seaton, David Weinberg, Micki Weinberg

Absent: Mana Barari, John Lavine, Anne Wagley

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Sherry Zhang regarding the Falun Gong resolution.

Steve Ispas regarding the Falun Gong resolution.

Lisa Kokin regarding the State budget cuts for the arts.

Ann Fagen Ginger regarding the Berkeley Principles.

Richard Challacomber regarding the Berkeley Principles.

Stephen Myers regarding the Berkeley Principles.

Peter DuMont regarding a request to put an item on the agenda.

Raymond Nat Turner regarding the State budget cuts for the arts.

ACTION ON MINUTES

M/S/F (*Freedkin, Cohen*) to approve the minutes from the regular meeting of April 8, 2002 as amended. **Ayes:** Cohen, Freedkin, McDonald, Rose; **Noes:** None; **Abstain:** Arasteh, Brody, Curtis, Seaton, Weinberg (*David*), Weinberg (*Micki*); **Absent:** Barari, Lavine, Wagley.

Commissioners Arasteh, Brody, Curtis, Seaton, Weinberg (*David*), and Weinberg (*Micki*) abstained from the vote because they were recently appointed to the Commission and were not members for the April 2002 meeting.

M/S/C (*McDonald, Cohen*) to approve the minutes from the regular meeting of May 6, 2002 as amended. **Ayes:** Unanimous; **Absent:** Barari, Lavine, Wagley.

MINUTES OF JUNE 3, 2002

ACTIONS TAKEN:

M/S/C (*Freedkin, Brody*) The Peace and Justice Commission has received public comment saying that impending cuts in State funding for the California Arts Council (CAC) will particularly affect marginalized communities in Berkeley as well as throughout the State. We heard from Artists in Residence funded by CAC about visual arts, poetry, and other work they do with the Bay Area AIDS support community, the New Light Senior Center, and a homeless shelter. Comments were received saying that therapeutic benefits of art could be lost to hundreds of people in under-served communities of Berkeley if these cuts go through. Members of the public commented in person and in writing that they wanted City Council to know that these state budget cuts would have a significant impact on under-served communities in Berkeley. We are also referring this matter to the Civic Arts Commission for further consideration. **Ayes:** Arasteh, Brody, Curtis, Freedkin, McDonald, Rose, Seaton, Weinberg (*David*); **Noes:** None; **Abstain:** Cohen; Weinberg (*Micki*); **Absent:** Barari; Lavine; Wagley.

Commissioners Cohen and Weinberg (*Micki*) abstained from the vote because they did not think that this item fell under the purview of the Peace and Justice Commission.

NOTE: Reports were sent to both City Council and Civic Arts Commission informing them of the action taken by the Peace and Justice Commission.

M/S/C (*Freedkin, McDonald*) The Peace and Justice Commission creates a subcommittee to follow up on its Falun Gong proposal by: 1) seeking a meeting with appropriate City staff to discuss staff's concerns about the resolution, and 2) bring a new proposal to the July Commission meeting. Subcommittee members shall be Commissioners Freedkin, McDonald, and Cohen. **Ayes:** Arasteh, Brody, Cohen, Curtis, Freedkin, McDonald, Rose, Seaton, Weinberg (*Micki*); **Noes:** Weinberg (*David*); **Absent:** Barari, Lavine, Wagley.

NEXT MEETING:

The next regular meeting will on Monday, July 1, 2002 at 7:00 pm in the North Berkeley Senior Center.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:24 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Manuel Hector, Secretary
Peace and Justice Commission