



MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 25, 2021 MEETING

WebEx Event

CALL TO ORDER

President Villy Wang called the meeting to order at 2:09pm.

ROLL CALL

Commissioners Present:

Villy Wang

Jon Rubin

Matt Stiker

Jim Beaumonte

Belle Taylor-McGhee

Claudine Cheng

Tony Delorio

Jack S. Song

Alix Rosenthal

Julie Gilman Veronese

Lynne Newhouse Segal

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE DATE MEETING (ACTION ITEM)

President Wang asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the December 17, 2020 meeting. Commissioner Rosenthal made the motion and Commissioner Delorio seconded the motion. President Wang asked for comments.

Commissioner Rosenthal clarified what she said under Executive Director's report – she felt that the Commission hasn't had opportunities to be helpful. She would like this updated in the minutes.

Commissioner Song abstained from the vote.

The Commissioners voted unanimous for approval of the minutes.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT (DISCUSSION ONLY)

President Wang began by giving an update on coordinating efforts around the Film SF Racial Equity team. She thanked the Office of Economic and Workforce Development (OEWD) for coming to the meeting last time and their work with the Racial Equity actions. There was a debrief between the Film SF team with the President and Vice President – the discussion revolved internal versus external plans. For internal, the discussion was mostly around training for both the Office and for Commissioners in the near future. There will be some funds allocated for the training and more complete answers regarding funding in the summer when the new fiscal year begins. This



means that the Racial Equity retreat for the Commission will happen later in the year, sometime in the Fall/Winter. Before that, there will be other opportunities to talk about Racial Equity actions in the Commission meetings.

For external plans, President Wang acknowledges that Commissioners may already be doing this type of work and would like suggestions and help from Commissioners in five main points:

1. Introductions to consultants or trainers that specialize in facilitating and training groups on racial equity principles.
2. Introductions to organizations, changemakers and thought leaders who are actively changing the landscape of film and media through a racial equity lens.
3. Film Commission meetings are a good opportunity to invite guest presenters who can share their racial equity work, experiences and goals within the film and digital media industries.
4. Educationally, what are some questions around the racial equity impact that you have?
5. Who has the initiative and interest to take more leadership in this racial equity work with the Film SF team?

President Wang ended her report and asked for Commissioner comments.

Commissioner Cheng shared that she is working with the San Francisco Human Rights Commission (HRC) and other programs that are looking for trainers and she is happy to connect the Film Commission with any resources she may find. She also asked if President Wang can explain with more examples what it means to see media/production through a Racial Equity lens. President Wang stated it can be anything in front and behind the camera – she would like to gather information about what kind of work is happening in all aspects of production and where the Commission can make an impact. Commissioner Cheng stated that she is already working with HRC so she is happy to work with the Office and other Commissioners around Racial Equity actions. Executive Director Robbins stated that when seeking out trainers, one important aspect is to see if they have any expertise in the film industry. Commissioner Cheng agreed this is important and to also get trainers who can give lessons in some basic principles of Racial Equity work – she will look around and see what is out there.

Film SF Manager Manijeh Fata clarified that the funding on training would come from OEWD – the training subcommittee is currently creating a budget justification for training funding for the next fiscal year department-wide.

VICE PRESIDENT’S REPORT (DISCUSSION ONLY)

Vice President Stiker began by introducing the video created by Teak along with SF Travel who released a video last fall called “The Gate is Opened.” It was made to entice visitors back to San Francisco. They were gracious enough to allow the use of some of their footage for a Film SF video which welcomes filming back to the City. He thanked Travel SF, Teak, Mayor London Breed and Mr. Francis Ford Coppola for their participation in making this video.

The video was shown. Vice President Stiker stated that as soon as the Office feels comfortable, they can share this video to help get productions back in San Francisco.

President Wang thanked Vice President Stiker for all his work on this to get it to happen and asked for Commissioner comments.

Commissioners Rosenthal and Segal both complimented the video and thank Vice President Stiker for his work.

During public comments, Mr. Frank Simeone also shared his appreciation for the video, calling it inspiring.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT (DISCUSSION ONLY)

Executive Director Susannah Robbins began her report by giving an update on the number of recent film permits and notable productions which have shot in San Francisco. There were 14 permits with 52 shoot days and \$6,400 in permit fees. This was over the holidays and much of Hollywood was paused. Last year at this time, there were

29 permits, 92 shoot days and \$20,600 in permit fees. That is down 51% in permits, 43% in shoot days and 68% in permit fees.

Key productions during this time were 3 days of the Amazon TV Series *Goliath*, a 2-day Salesforce shoot by HEIST and 30 days of Pottery Barn Kids/Teen catalog shoot by Williams Sonoma.

She then gave an update on upcoming productions stating that a possible Marvel shoot will be happening later this year in June for 2nd unit shoots and October for 1st unit shoots.

During public comment, Mr. Frank Simeone stated that he was excited because he's been hearing from producers that out-of-state productions are coming.

NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF PRESIDENT (ACTION ITEM)

President Wang began by recusing herself from this item and Commissioner Rosenthal took over the meeting for the nomination and election. Commissioner Rosenthal asked for nominations. Commissioner Cheng nominated Commissioner Wang for President and thanked her for her service so far – she knows that Commissioner Wang is dedicated and hope she can continue to lead the Commission. Commissioner Segal seconded the nomination. A vote was called and it was unanimous – Commissioner Wang is elected President of the Film Commission

During Commissioner comment, Commissioner Rubin stated that he is happy to have Commissioner Wang as President and asked if there were any term limits. President Wang, along with a few others, stated that there was no limit.

President Wang then took over the meeting, thanking the Commission for their vote of confidence. She looks forward to another year leading the Commission and also to build more/share her leadership.

NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF VICE PRESIDENT (ACTION ITEM)

President Wang began by asking for nominations. Commissioner Beaumonte nominated Commissioner Stiker. He thanked Commissioners Wang and Stiker and all Commissioners for their leadership last year. He also thanked the Film Office staff for keeping it opened and their work in everything as well. Commissioner Delorio seconded the nomination.

During public comments, Mr. Frank Simeone thanked and congratulated Commissioner Stiker and all for their work.

President Wang asked for a vote and it was a unanimous yes. Commissioner Stiker was elected as Vice President of the Film Commission.

Vice President Stiker stated that it's an honor and a privilege to service. He also wanted to echo President Wang's sentiments about sharing/passing on leadership to other Commissioners.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT (DISCUSSION ONLY)

President Wang asked if there were any additional public comments.

Executive Director Robbins stated that she is so glad that both Commissioner Wang and Stiker are still President and Vice President respectively. They were always attentive, gave great advice and she thanked them for their dedication. She looks forward to continue working with them. President Wang and Vice President Stiker thanked her for her comments.

During public comment, Mr. Simeone again congratulated President Wang and Vice President Stiker and thanked them for their leadership. President Wang and Vice President Stiker both thanked Mr. Simeone for his continued attendance to the meetings.

ADJOURNMENT (ACTION ITEM)

President Wang asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Rosenthal motioned and Commissioner Rubin seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and the meeting was adjourned at 2:55 pm.