



**City of Santa Barbara**  
**LIVING WAGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**MEETING MINUTES**

for

Wednesday, March 1, 2017

3:00PM

City Hall, Room 15

735 Anacapa Street, Santa Barbara, California

[www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov](http://www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov)

I. Call to order: **3:05pm**

II. Roll Call:  Richard Flacks       Anna Kokotovic, Chair       Gabe Dominocielo, Vice Chair  
 Ken Oplinger       Mario Quezada       Gregory Freeland

Council Liaison:  Cathy Murillo

Staff:       Greg Corral  Bill Hornung       \_\_\_\_\_

Note: Ken needed to leave around 4pm to attend another meeting.

III. Public comment: **None**

IV. Review and approve the November 16, 2016 meeting minutes: **Unanimously approved as-is.**

V. Old Business

a. Discussion of the Living Wage Payment Tiers:

**Anna said we need to wait because things are unclear in regards to the Affordable Care Act. Cathy agreed and said we should leave things alone while things are unsettled. Richard suggested and the committee agreed that further discussion on the wage tiers should be tabled until the uncertainty of the replacement insurance is resolved and we know more about the replacement plan.**

**Cathy mentioned having Kristy Schmidt, Administrative Services Director, and SEIU to come to a future meeting after their negotiations have been completed. She also mentioned inviting Peter Conn with Health Care for All, which is promoting a single payer system, to come and talk to the committee.**

b. Living Wage Forum Update from Cathy

**Cathy discussed expanding the forum to include the high cost of living in Santa Barbara. One of the purposes of the forum is to educate workers about the Living Wage ordinance. Cathy discussed the forum with Frank Rodriguez with CAUSE and he is going to bring it to his executive board to see if there is interest in participating. She would also like the chamber to be a participant as well to discuss the impacts on businesses. Ken mentioned that the chamber also includes the high cost of living and transportation in their discussions at the chamber.**

**The forum should include an open mic. Ken said we should try to find a time to accommodate people, a week day is better than a weekend, and an evening meeting would be better for workers.**

**Committee is looking at Wednesday, June 7 from 7 to 9pm. Cathy said we could write an op-ed to advertise the forum. Cathy is meeting with some people involved in the building trades and they offer apprenticeship opportunities. She wanted to offer**

them a table to promote their programs and to see if they are interested in being a sponsor. Ken said that the Boys and Girls Club of Santa Barbara is available on the 7<sup>th</sup>. Cathy also suggested the Faulkner Gallery might be a viable option. Richard and Anna volunteered to help organize if Cathy takes the lead.

**Is there a cost for the facility?**

## VI. New Business

- 1) Discussion of Exemptions to the Living Wage Ordinance  
**Committee decided to defer discussion while they try to recruit and fill the open non-profit position on the committee since committee recruitments start next month. The committee is interested in hearing from Community Development about block grants and how other cities with Living Wage ordinances treat grants.**  
**Ken says that we should not impose this on non-profits until the City meets this obligation because the folks that the City does not pay a Living Wage to are very similar to the folks (part-time, seasonable, etc.) that the non-profits are using and provide similar services (e.g., parking attendants). Richard inquired about non-profits that the City subsidizes such as the Child Estates/Santa Barbara Zoo. Purchasing does not hold any information on subsidies. Cathy said she might have a list.**
- 2) Discussion of City paying less than Living Wage  
**Deferred to a future meeting. Kristy Schmidt was unable to attend and is involved with negotiations with the labor groups at this time.**
- 3) Update of Audit Budget  
**If the City implements budget cuts because of declining revenues, the Living Wage audit funds of \$3,500 may be cut. The committee unanimously felt the City should not cut the auditing budget because the threat of an audit helps with compliance. Chair Anna plans to advocate the committee's perspective before Council.**
- 4) Living Wage CPI increase  
**Effective July 1, the threshold for triggering Living Wage Requirements increase to \$18,799. The wages tiers will be: \$17.85 with no benefits, \$15.04 with some benefits, and \$13.79 with approved extra benefits.**
- 5) Develop 2017 meeting schedule. All meetings will begin at 3pm, in Room 15 at City Hall.  
**May 31, September 6, and December 6**
- 6) Election of Chair and Vice-Chair (2 year term)  
**Deferred to the next meeting**
- 7) Future agenda items
  - a. **Cathy will see if someone from Health Care for All is interested in making a presentation to the committee on their efforts for a single payer system in California.**
  - b. **Richard was interested in what non-profits such as the zoo (Child Estate) are receiving subsidies from the City. Because these types of subsidies do not go through Purchasing, Cathy said she might be able to assist with creating a list.**
  - c. **Invite someone from Community Development to the next meeting to discuss Living Wages and grants. The committee is specifically interested in what percentage of grantees are paying a Living Wage and in getting feedback on the potential impacts of requiring grantees to pay Living Wages.**

## VII. Adjournment: 4:20pm