

**COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES**  
**February 8, 2021**  
**Meeting location:** Zoom Online

**Commission Members Present:**

County  
Supervisor -  
Vacant

Eva de Long

District 2  
Representative - Vacant

Shirley Brown

Yvonnia  
Brown

Dr. Salvador  
Sandoval

Aaron Lequia

Paula Smith

Genevieve  
Valentine

**Staff Present:** Thomas Ebersole, Scott Waite, Marie Pickney, and Frank Contreras-Garcia.

**Guests:** Rosa Barragan, Monica Adrian, and Jennifer Xiong

**Call to Order**

Commission Vice-Chair, Yvonnia Brown, called the Commission Meeting to order at 3:06 PM.

**Pledge of Allegiance, and Roll Call**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by: Commissioner Eva de Long.

Commissioner Salvador Sandoval joined the meeting at 3:42 PM.

Attendance results noted above; a quorum was present.

**SCHEDULED ITEMS:**

**Public Opportunity to Speak on Any Matter within the Commission's**

**Jurisdiction**

Members of the public were invited to come forward to speak. No members of the public came forward to speak.

**Additions/Deletions to the Agenda:**

There were no additions/deletions to the agenda.

## **CONSENT CALENDAR:**

**2021-02-028 Approval of Minutes for the December 14, 2020 Commission Meeting**

**2021-02-029 Approval of Expenditures through December 31, 2020**

**2021-02-030 Approval of Expenditures through January 31, 2021**

Y. Brown asked for questions or comments from the Commissioners. There were none.

Scott Waite, First 5 Merced Executive Director, shared the January 2021 Expenditures Report and stated that the report was not available at the time of publishing. Waite will have staff add the February Expenditures Report to the First 5 Merced website.

Y. Brown asked for questions or comments from the public. There were none.

Commissioner Eva de Long moved to approve Items #02-028 – 02-030.

Motion seconded by: Commissioner Paula Smith. The motion was unanimously passed with 5 in favor, 0 opposed.

## **PUBLIC HEARING:**

**2021-02-031 Public Hearing for Strategic Planning for 2020 to 2025**

Waite gave a brief outline of the Strategic Planning for 2020 to 2025.

Y. Brown opened the public hearing at 3:18 PM.

Jennifer Xiong with Hlub Hmong Center asked if the data was collected pre-COVID since some of the numbers may have changed. Scott clarified that the numbers were collected before the pandemic and that First 5 Merced is aware that the numbers have changed.

There were no other public comments. Y. Brown closed the public hearing at 3:25 PM.

Commissioner Aaron Lequia moved to approve Item #02-031.

Motion seconded by: Commissioner Genevieve Valentine. The motion was unanimously passed with 5 in favor, 0 opposed.

**2021-02-032 Public Hearing for Long-Range Financial Plan for 2020-2025**

Waite gave a brief outline of the Long-Range Financial Plan for 2020-2025. Waite stated that there was a small adjustment to the "Safe Play Initiative" where the start date

would be pushed back to 2021/2022 and end in year 2023/2024 due to the COVID pandemic.

Y. Brown opened up the public hearing at 3:36 PM. There were no public comments.

Y. Brown closed the public hearing at 3:37 PM.

Commissioner Eva de Long moved to approve Item #02-032.

Motion seconded by: Commissioner Genevieve Valentine. The motion was unanimously passed with 5 in favor, 0 opposed.

### **ACTION ITEMS:**

Waite requested action Item #2021-02-037 be presented first since the evaluator, Hamai Consulting, has to leave meeting early.

All Commissioners agreed for Item #2021-02-037 to be presented first.

### **2021-02-033 Grants Affected by COVID-19**

Waite gave a brief outline of the grants affected by COVID-19. Many projects were unable to conduct events and services before the deadline of December 31, 2020 due to public health guidance. Staff recommends that Commission authorize a 6 month no-cost extension for grants that end December 31, 2020 that have been affected by COVID-19.

Y. Brown asked for questions or comments from the Commission. Y. Brown commented that she is glad this item is on the agenda for an extension because of the pandemic. There were no other questions or comments from the Commissioners.

Y. Brown asked for questions or comments from the public. There were none.

Commissioner Aaron Lequia moved to approve Item #02-033.

Motion seconded by: Commissioner Genevieve Valentine. The motion was unanimously passed with 6 in favor, 0 opposed.

### **2021-02-034 Request for Application (RFA) Community Engagement Event**

Waite gave a brief outline of the Community Engagement RFA.

Y. Brown asked for questions or comments from the Commissioners. There were none.

Y. Brown asked for questions or comments from the public. There were none.

Commissioner Genevieve Valentine moved to approve Item #02-034.

Motion seconded by: Commissioner Paula Smith. The motion was unanimously passed with 6 in favor, 0 opposed.

### **2021-02-035 Request for Proposals (RFP) Mini-Grants**

Waite gave a brief outline of the Mini-Grants RFP.

Y. Brown asked for questions or comments from the Commissioners.

De Long asked about opinions on the lengthy instructions of the Mini-Grants RFP and if this prevents organizations from applying because of their inexperience in applying for grants/funding.

Waite stated that there is no solution at this time because of the procurement process that needs to be followed. Waite stated that if an application is received that does not meet the threshold, staff have met one-on-one with the organizations for hands on assistance.

Y. Brown commented that there is funding for grantors that need technical assistance training to help build their capacity.

Waite said that there is a partnership with Hands on California, a grant that brings in capacity training by senior volunteers who have retired from the financial field and partner them up with organizations. This grant will kick off on April 1<sup>st</sup>.

Waite also stated that there is a possibility of online training capacity.

Y. Brown asked for questions or comments from the public. There were none.

Commissioner Eva de Long moved to approve Item #02-035.

Motion seconded by: Commissioner Dr. Salvador Sandoval. The motion was unanimously passed with 6 in favor, 0 opposed.

### **2021-02-036 Request for Proposals (RFP) Innovation Grants**

Waite gave a brief outline of the Innovation Grants RFP.

Dr. Sandoval abstained from voting on this item.

Y. Brown asked for questions or comments from the Commissioners. There were none.

Y. Brown asked for questions or comments from the public. There were none.

Commissioner Paula Smith moved to approve Item #02-036.

Motion seconded by: Commissioner Aaron Lequia. The motion was unanimously passed with 5 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstained.

### **2021-02-037 Evaluation Plan for 2020-2025 Strategic Plan**

Waite gave a brief outline of the Evaluation Plan for 2020-2025 Strategic Plan.

Tamara Hamai, President of Hamai Consulting, gave a presentation of the draft of the new Evaluation Plan for 2020-2025 Strategic Plan.

Y. Brown asked for questions or comments from the Commissioners.

De Long asked how the pandemic is affecting the evaluation activities in Merced County and if this will be reflected in the evaluation from Hamai.

Hamai stated that the evaluation aligns with programs that are being implemented or being delivered. Hamai stated that if services are being delivered virtually or in-person, evaluations can be done with either.

Y. Brown commented that she liked the well thought out and collaborated evaluation. She appreciated the outcomes and successes of the contractors, especially looking at the funding. Y. Brown thanked Hamai.

Y. Brown asked for questions or comments from the public. There were none.

Commissioner Eva de Long moved to approve Item #02-037.

Motion seconded by: Commissioner Dr. Salvador Sandoval. The motion was unanimously passed with 6 in favor, 0 opposed.

### **2021-02-038 Contract Extension for Persimmony Evaluation Software for FY 21/22**

Waite gave a brief outline of the contract extension for Persimmony Evaluation Software for FY 21/22.

Y. Brown asked for questions or comments from the Commissioners.

Y. Brown asked what the reasons were for possibly using another evaluation software.

Waite stated that the software is not the most user-friendly especially for new users and some reports were put in wrong sections that had to be moved back. Also, there may be another more cost effective tool.

Y. Brown asked for questions or comments from the public. There were none.

Commissioner Dr. Salvador Sandoval moved to approve Item #02-038.

Motion seconded by: Commissioner Aaron Lequia. The motion was unanimously passed with 6 in favor, 0 opposed.

### **INFORMATIONAL AGENDA ITEMS:**

**Staff Report:** February 2021

Waite highlighted the February 2021 First 5 Merced Staff Report.

Y. Brown asked for questions or comments from the Commissioners.

Y. Brown thanked Waite for the attachments. There were no other questions or comments from the Commissioners.

### **Commissioner's Report**

There were no Commissioner's Report.

Meeting adjourned at 4:41 PM.

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on:

**Monday, March 8, 2021**

**3:00 PM**

**Location: ZOOM online (unless otherwise stated by State of California  
COVID-19 Guidance on Group Meetings)**