I. CALL TO ORDER

Kristen Seatavakin, commission chair, called the meeting to order at First 5 Marin at 5:33 p.m.

Commissioners Present
Kristen Seatavakin – chair
Gabrielle Auguste – vice chair
Kari Beuerman
David Bonfilio
Lisa Leavitt MD
Lucia Martel-Dow
Supervisor Dennis Rodoni

Commissioners Excused:
Amy Eisenmann
Juan Rodriguez

Staff Present
Michelle Fadelli
Amy Reisch

Guests
Steve Schwartz, Interfaith Sustainable Food Collaborative

II. URGENCY AGENDA ITEM

Commission Chair Kristen Seatavakin asked for permission to add an item to the agenda related to sending a letter of support on the State Budget.

Motion/Second: Rodoni/Bonfilio
The motion to add the urgency item to the agenda was unanimously approved.

III. MEETING MINUTES

Commissioner Seatavakin asked if there were changes, additions or corrections to the commission minutes for the last meeting on March 20, 2019. Amy Reisch noted a correction to identify Kristen Seatavakin as chair of the commission.

Motion/Second: Bonfilio/Rodoni
The minutes of March 20, 2019 were unanimously approved as amended.

IV. COMMENTS

Commissioner Lucia Martel-Dow spoke about the historic numbers of new immigrants arriving in Marin especially from Honduras and Guatemala. It’s a refugee crisis. She shared that 100,000 people were apprehended at the southern US border in April alone, compared to 50,000 last October. Family units are the highest numbers, often a mother and child. Unaccompanied minors are also high. (In all of 2015, we had 170 minors come to Marin; we’ve had 94 already this year. Marin numbers are very high compared to other larger counties: 141 in Contra Costa; 129 in San Francisco; both counties have
several agencies representing immigrant applicants, as well as offices of immigration services in a number of counties.) ALL of the minors in Marin are under deportation orders; Canal Alliance currently has 90 open legal cases just for children. (They have handled 900 new clients from Guatemala over the last five years.)*Amy Reisch added that these children and families are severely traumatized. Our county/community doesn’t have a comprehensive approach to or resources to deal with all the related issues.*Commissioner Bonfilio asked if most are settling in San Rafael. Lucia said some have settled in Novato, but most are in San Rafael. He asked if there is a role for First 5. Amy said the “Public Charge Workgroup” is the most appropriate venue; First 5 Marin is co-leading the groups along with the County and the Marin Community Foundation. She said the question is how to provide a safe place for people fleeing here; we need schools and housing at the table. Commissioner Beuerman noted that people are coming despite the lack of housing and what they may be facing in the United States; it’s shocking. Lucia agreed that there is a sense of urgency; the people coming believe they need to act now because things may be getting worse.

Commissioner Leavitt asked if you could get anything needed for these immigrants, what is the dream scenario? Lucia said housing, schools and legal services. (for example, Canal Alliance needs experienced deportation attorneys.)

Kari asked about the 90 kids. Lucia said they can get green cards but it may take years; until then, they cannot legally enter the workforce. Minors can seek “Special Immigrant Juvenile Status” (SIRJ), but that takes often up to 3 years.

Kristen asked for an update on this issue at the June commission meeting.

V. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Steve Schwartz from the Interfaith Sustainable Food Collaborative reported that there is federal legislation for Child Nutrition Reauthorization; he suggested that First 5 Marin might want to send a letter of support for the bill.

Steve also talked about WIC funding for farmers markets. He said that federal funds may be used to purchase fruit and vegetables at farmers markets; there are also state funds that could supplement this funding. With the federal incentive program, his organization can provide $60 incentive funding to up to 100 families, on top of the $20 they receive in federal funding from WIC.

There are more than ten farmers markets in Marin that will accept WIC vouchers as well as the “mobile market” operated by the Agricultural Institute of Marin (AIM) called the “Rollin’ Root.”

Amy noted that First 5 Marin participates in the Food Now Task Force and the HEAL (Healthy Eating Active Living) Collaborative.

VI. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR COMMENTS

Executive director Amy Reisch presented her executive director’s report and noted that a lot of work is taking place around the Census and Public Charge; we have also been busy with our forums.

a. Retirement Announcement – Amy announced to the commission that she is planning to retire at the end of August, 2020. Commission Chair Seatavakin suggested that a subcommittee be formed to address potential search efforts and planning for transition. There was discussion about public notice of these meetings and the need to clarify whether a meeting must be noticed if the
committee membership exceeds two members of the commission. Options also include discussion of personnel matters in a closed session of the full commission or a publicly noticed “special meeting.” It was agreed that the committee should be comprised of those members who are interested and that the meetings be noticed.

Kristen asked for volunteers for the subcommittee Lucia and David volunteered; they will serve along with Kristen and vice chair Gabrielle Auguste.

b. First 5 California meeting – Amy announced that Firs5 5 California will hold a satellite meeting at First 5 Marin for their “Public Education and Outreach Advisory Committee” (on Friday, May 17th from 10:30 to noon). The chair of First 5 California, George Halvorson, will be attending from First 5 Marin’s conference room. The main meeting will be taking place in Sacramento.

c. First 5 Revenues – At a recent meeting of the Bay Area Region Executive Directors for First 5, there was some extended discussion about significant reductions in Prop. 10 (tobacco tax) revenues in the past fiscal year. Amy noted that First 5 Marin although we will receive less revenue than projected, our reserves will not be impacted because several projects will not spend their full allocations this year.

Amy said the revised state projections will be incorporated into our budget for FY1920. The California Department of Tax and Fee Administration, which administers Prop. 10 revenues, cannot confirm what the “backfill” numbers will be for First 5’s. They also have not transmitted a payment for our February revenues—which makes budgeting a challenge. Finally, of note, despite the popularity of vaping, overall use of tobacco products is down and therefore total revenues are declining as is Marin’s birth rate (the basis for our allocation from Prop 10 funds).

d. Meeting with the Governor – Amy reported that Governor Newsom and the “First Partner” called a meeting with early childhood leaders this past Thursday. Moira Kenney and Margot Grant Gould from the First 5 Association attended, along with Camille Maben from First 5 California and several First ED’s. There were some new partners at the table, including Planned Parenthood, the LA Chamber and the Bay Area Council. The discussion centered on his family centered budget and what he hopes will be passed by the legislature.

VII. URGENCY ITEM

Letter of Support to Governor Gavin Newsom regarding the State Budget and the May Revise – A letter of support was distributed regarding First 5 Marin’s support for the extensive allocations for early childhood issues in the State Budget and “May Revise.” This letter will be sent to Governor Gavin News and copied to the chairs and vice chairs of the Assembly and State Senate Budget Committees as well as to Giannina Perez and Kris Perry, the Governor’s advisors on early childhood.

Motion/Second: Bonfilio/Beuerman
The motion to approve the letter of support for the State Budget and May Revise was unanimously approved.
VIII. COMMISSION DISCUSSION

- **Presentation of First 5 CA Annual Report** – Amy shared First 5 California’s Annual Report for FY1718. It is available on-line and has information about all 58 counties and their work over FY1718.

- **Help Me Grow Call Center** – Amy reported that a Request for Bids related to the call center for the “Help Me Grow” program had been released; only one bid was received. After review and discussion, the Committee decided that the process should be started at First 5 Marin. There are many opportunities for leveraging funding, including our executive director’s salary.

  Amy noted that there is a lot of related activity: there is funding for developmental screening in the May Revise and related legislation. Other bills related to Early Childhood Mental Health would allow child care providers to increase reimbursements if mental health services are provided.

  First 5 Marin will serve as the fiscal agent and backbone organization as this project moves forward.

  **Motion/Second: Bonfilio/Rodoni**

  The motion to proceed with plans to develop a call center for the Help Me Grow program with First 5 Marin as fiscal agent and backbone organization was unanimously approved.

- **DRAFT BUDGET for FY1920** – Amy presented the draft budget for Fiscal Year 2019-2020.

  Amy reported that the status of MarinKids is under reconsideration; CVNL is guiding the discussion. The budget provides $120,000 for MarinKids for 2019-20.

  She also noted that the Long-Range Financial Plan will be presented at the June meeting, assuming we receive sufficient information on projected revenues from the state.

  As always, should the status of Marinkids change, or additional expenses be projected for any Executive transition or search efforts, the Commission may always amend the budget. Staff will present an update in September.

  *David reported the Finance Committee reviewed and approved the draft. He said this is a good budget!*

  **Motion/Second: Bonfilio/Leavitt**

  The motion to approve the Draft Budget for FY 2019-20 was unanimously approved.

IX. FINAL COMMENTS – Lisa announced that Meredith Parnell, MarinKids executive director, had attended the County’s budget hearings and addressed the board in support of funding for children. She, along with a number of interested partners, also met with Matthew Hymel, the county administrator, to formally request a “children’s budget” or detail on allocations that benefit children.

  Dennis noted that the County’s budget system is complicated and it is difficult to pull individual allocations out.
Amy added that she had attended the Rise Together Summit. One discussion was about open or participatory budgeting. Contra Costa County is starting to include the public before the department’s budgets are compiled.

Lisa also announced that she attended the recent San Rafael City Council meeting related to renter protections, and spoke in support of mediation and just cause eviction. Dennis added that public participation is very effective.

Michelle Fadelli reported on attending First 5’s Advocacy Day in Sacramento. She asked whether commissioners would be interested in meeting with our state representatives on a Friday in their district offices. She will inquire about meeting dates and times, and report back to the commission.

Kristen Seatavakin reported that she now also serves on the Marin Child Care Commission.

X. **ADJOURNMENT** – Commission chair Kristen Seatavakin adjourned the meeting at 6:58 p.m.

**NEXT SCHEDULED COMMISSION MEETING:**

**Wednesday, June 19, 2019 at 5:30**
1050 Northgate, Suite 130
San Rafael

Additional meeting dates for 2019:

**September 18**
**October 16**
**November 20**
(no meetings in July, August or December)

Upcoming dates for the Marin Communications Forum:

**May 20th – Toxic Stress in Marin**
**June 3rd – Literacy, Libraries and Raising a Reader**