**COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT COMMISSION**

**MINUTES**

April 20, 2020

6pm-8pm

Skype Meeting (due to COVID-19)

\*Due to technological issues with Skype, this meeting necessitated moving to the video meeting platform Zoom\*

**Commissioners present:** Alison Turner, Bill Southern, Ben Mitchell, Carol Redfield, Chris Maykut, Emily Kim, Felix Chang, Jasmine Aryana, Julie Pham, Karyn Kubo Fleming, Sharif Mahfouz, Thais Marbles

**Commissioners not present:** Marcus White

**Staff present:** Hilary Nichols

**Remote Decision Making**

This agenda item was postponed because CIC Staff Liaison announced that there is new guidance from the Seattle City Attorney Office (CAO) that recommends City boards and commissions *not* take any action unless the action is necessary and routine, or directly related to the Covid-19 public health emergency. This includes any kind of voting. Because of this, the CIC delayed deciding on a remote decision making process, since most decisions by the CIC will need to be postponed due to the new guidance from CAO.

**Agenda and Minutes Approval**

Officially approving the April agenda and the March minutes was postponed due to the new guidance from CAO. During this time, the members of the CIC took time to review the memo that was sent by the City Attorney Office, which provided guidance on operating during Covid-19 and recommends that City boards and commissions *not* take any action unless the action is necessary and routine, or directly related to the Covid-19 public health emergency. This is to minimize the risk of violating the Open Public Meetings Act, which as it stands requires boards and commissions to have their meetings open for the public to attend in person.

**Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

**Check-In**

CIC commissioners each checked in to say how they are doing personally.

**Share Community Involvement Opportunities for Commissioners**

CIC member Julie Pham gave an overview of the conversation that the CIC Co-Chairs had with Department of Neighborhoods Director Andrés Mantilla the week of 3/9 about opportunities for the CIC to be involved in the Covid-19 recovery. These opportunities were: breaking up social isolation, the Seattle Together campaign, fostering neighbor to neighbor connections, or the weekly Covid-19 webinar that DON hosts.

After this overview, DON staff Samantha Stork joined the CIC meeting to give a more detailed overview of the Seattle Together campaign. Seattle Together is a community wide campaign that aims to spread social connection during social distancing. This effort will center the most impacted by the Covid-19 crisis and use a racial equity lens in its planning. Seattle Together includes many efforts, including resourcing artists and art programs, resourcing community organizers, and elevating mutual aid networks. The campaign is in partnership with many City departments, including Office of Economic Development, Office of Arts and Culture, Office of Civil Rights, Seattle Parks and Recreation, Office of Planning and Community Development, the Seattle Public Library, and the Office of the Mayor. In addition to the hashtag #SeattleTogether that can be used in social media, the Seattle Together campaign aims to share information to support communities, like small business resources, food access resources, and youth resources.

Samantha Stork announced that there will be an advisory group to support the Seattle Together campaign, and asked if any CIC members were interested in being a part of it.

Several CIC members asked Samantha Stork about communities that may be hard to reach in the Seattle Together campaign, including communities who only speak one language, and seniors. These CIC members also contributed some ideas for reaching these communities, including having a letter writing campaign from youth to elders.

In conclusion, CIC Staff Liaison summarized the categories of Seattle Together topics that the CIC could contribute to: 1) spreading joy in neighborhoods, 2) art in communities, 3) amplifying mutual aid network efforts already happening in community, 4) support for seniors, and 5) miscellaneous topics that don’t fit in to categories 1-4. CIC Staff Liaison offered to create a Google Doc (the preferred platform for the CIC) so that CIC members can contribute their ideas ad hoc.

**Near Future Plans for the Commission**

CIC Co-Chair Alison Turner reviewed a document that she drafted outlining a proposal for the CIC to go on hiatus during the Covid-19 crisis.

Several CIC members expressed that it will still be very difficult for them to advise the City during the Covid-19 crisis. They expressed that while they can certainly add ideas to the Seattle Together campaign ad hoc, they are more interested in advising the City on its long-term plans for the recovery phase. Several CIC members asked if the Department of Neighborhoods could provide the CIC with specific questions and guidance on how the CIC can advise on the Covid-19 recovery efforts.

CIC members also talked about the need for an official channel that allows the commission to communicate directly with the City, especially a channel that allows for collaboration, e.g. Slack. CIC Staff Liaison committed to investigating if such a channel exists.

**Public Comment**

Community member Cindi Barker provided public comment. Cindi talked about being part of the Emergency Hub system and has been a part of the efforts to use the Emergency Hub system during the Covid-19 pandemic.

**Adjourn**