COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT COMMISSION (CIC)

April 18, 2022

6:00 – 8:00 pm

Zoom Meeting

**Commissioners present:** Carol Redfield (she/her), Martha Lucas (she/her), Bill Southern (he/him), Ahoua Koné (she/her), Saba Rahman (she/her), Julia Jannon-Shields (she/her), Krissie Dillin

**Commissioners not in attendance:** Jasmine Aryana (she/her), Robert Radford

**City of Seattle Staff present**: Alvin Edwards (DON, he/him), Laura Jenkins (DON, she/her)

***(Transcriber’s Note: The notes shown below are summaries of statements provided. They are not transcriptions and have been shortened and edited to include the major points raised. Full comments are retained in the files in voice recording and available upon request.***

# Public Comment

There were no comments.

# Vote on 2/28, 3/21, & 3/30 Meeting Minutes

Five Commissioners voted to approve the 2/28/22, 3/21/22, & 3/30/22 meeting minutes. Two commissioners abstained from the vote because they were not at these meetings. Co-staff Liaisons will check with the City Attorney’s Office if a simple majority is enough to approve the minutes. \*

\*The City Attorney’s Office confirmed after the meeting that a simple majority not a quorum is needed for a decision on meeting meetings (in accordance with the Community Involvement Commission Bylaws). The 2/28/22, 3/21/22, & 3/30/22 minutes are all approved.

# Introductions

Commissioners identified themselves, their pronouns, what their expectations are and want they hope to add to the commission, and their occupation. Carol Redfield started this off, followed by Bill Southern, Martha Lucas.

New commissioners were also asked to describe what they like to do on their off-work time, what have they heard about Community Involvement Commission and what they hope to add. Ahoua Koné, Saba Rahman, Julia Jannon-Shields, and Krissie Dillin all spoke to these questions.

# Conversation with Mayor Bruce Harrell

Mayor Harrell spoke to his involvement with the Race and Social Justice Initiative (RSJI) and interest in equity and diversity.

* He was asked about his vision for the Community Involvement Commission. The Mayor spoke of lifting the voices of the less-heard and un-heard, which is also his responsibility. He also said he does not fully understand the commission’s charge even after reading more about them. He also spoke of the City breaking ties with the Neighborhood District Councils. Mayor Harrell would like the Community Involvement Commission to do better at the linkage between the City and the communities.
* Commissioners spoke of a lack of trust with the generations – both young and old.
* Mayor Harrell plans to make information around homelessness and homeless services more transparent to the public.
* He wants to work with the Community Involvement Commission to better define their charge. The mayor also wants to transfer the Parks portfolio into an asset that is relevant to all ages.
* Mayor Harrell mentioned the May 21st One Seattle Day of Service at 86 locations throughout the city.
* Neighborhood town halls were also discussed but the mayor doesn’t think they’re necessarily the answer.

# Co-staff Liaison Updates

The Co-staff Liaisons Alvin Edwards and Laura Jenkins provided updates for the group:

* Get Engaged appointment (youths between 18 and 29) will go to the City Council on Tuesday.
* One of the regular appointments in the queue didn’t move forward due to hesitancy from the City Council.
* For new commissioners:
  + Member Orientation series was sent to the recently appointed commissions.
  + Ask for the new commissioners’ biography and background for the website
  + Up to new commissioners if they want to use a different email if they don’t want to use your personal email.
  + There is an orientation handbook they was sent to members.
  + It was confirmed that 6 commissioners (on a 9-member commission) is a quorum.

The timeline for the retreat is mid- to late-June and has a budget of $250. Commissioner Dillon offered the Phinney Neighborhood Association’s space for a hybrid retreat (part of the group in person and the rest remote).

There is a requirement for in person meetings for everyone to be vaccinated.

The ice breaker was Two Truths and a Lie. The commissioners will wrap this ice breaker up at a future meeting.

# Community Involvement Commission History/Background

Former Community Involvement Commission (CIC) Commissioner, Chris Maykut, provided history/background about the CIC from around 2018 to 2021. “The purpose of the Commission is to advise and make recommendations to the Mayor and City Council on the development of plans, policies, regulations, strategies and community grant funding processes that advance equitable public engagement and civic participation in the city of Seattle.”

In 2019, they decided to focus on grants and following up on public comments that have actions attached to them. Chris suggested the commission should better define their relationship with the City.

# Public Comment

Cindi Barker talked about engaging the whole community.

Marcus White talked about Mayor Harrell coming to the meeting whereas there was some struggle getting Mayor Durkan to come to meetings.

Carol Burton asked about emailing the commission directly and whether Commission members can represent the committee when they’re out in the community.

The meeting was adjourned.