



Seattle
Neighborhoods
SEATTLE YOUTH COMMISSION

MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, Jan 4 @ 4:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Seattle City Hall (600 4th Ave)
Norm B. Rice Room – 7th Floor

Goals for the meeting:

- Get to know each other
- Developing project ideas & communication plan within your committees

Discussion Item:

Check-in & Meet-n-Greet with Councilmember Tim Burgess

CM Burgess introduced himself and shared his journey to becoming a Councilmember, which involved being a radio journalist, a police officer, and founding an agency to support non-profits. In 2007, he was elected to the Seattle City Council.

One of the issues of great importance to him that he discussed was the Seattle Preschool Program. It is meeting a need that Seattle has for accessible education, however it's funding is set to expire in 2018. City Council is currently evaluating special tax measures to continue its funding.

Department of Neighborhoods Updates

Sam Read, Communications staff for Department of Neighborhoods announced that Neighbor Day will be on Feb 11. This is a day that lifts up neighborliness. There will be lots of events happening that day and he encouraged SYC to participate.

Current Events

Catherine Zhu shared an article of a development that is planned for Chinatown/International District. The new development would be a high-rise hotel and apartments, with retail on the first floor. She shared her concern for how this building would challenge/change the character of the neighborhood. The planned site is near the Legacy House, a school, health center, and an already bustling community. For Elderly residents with special needs, there is a worry that this will add to the chaos of daily life. Youth commissioners discussed different aspects of this development – noting some negative and positive aspects for the neighborhood.

Please check out the article @ <http://www.seattleglobalist.com/2016/12/05/chinatown-international-district-mariott-hotel-development/59886>

Committee Work

- *Public Safety Committee:*
 - They would like to focus on: gang violence, gun violence, and drug violence
 - They are considering a protection campaign in schools for H.S./M.S. students
 - Pollution also came up as a possible focus
 - They are exploring the idea of video/interview as a medium for their project
- *Education/Schools:*
 - They set up a google doc to keep tabs on project and prepare progress reports
 - They are very concerned about the budget cuts in SPS and the disproportionate impact these will have on schools that are struggling
 - They plan to pursue discussion with Dwane Chapelle, Director of Department of Education and Early Learning, and Abraham Rodriguez-Hernandez, from SPS.
- *Homelessness/Housing Affordability:*
 - The group compiled several articles on a google doc and began doing research
 - They would like to interview a series of individuals and families who have had different connections to homelessness. In doing so, would like to make a case for the modular housing units.
 - Their next steps are to figure out who they want to interview and how they would like to go about scheduling.
 - If they are interested in learning more about the modular housing that is planned for Columbia City, Jenny can put them in contact with Compass Housing staff.

Announcements & Opportunities

- ***Final Call - Youth Action Day (Sunday, Jan 29 & Monday, Jan 30)***

This event is an overnight event that takes place in Olympia. This event exposes youth to the capital and the legislative process and advocacy and youth empowerment through youth voice, and about collaboration and networking.

Youth Commissioners going: Catherine, Becky, Kaileah, Xochitl, Clarissa, and Ziah

- ***Statement of Solidarity Update***

- ***Upcoming Meetings***

- Jan 18 Meeting – Committee Work! Come prepared! If you would like to arrange time to meet with City Staff on projects – this would be a great time to do that.

Action Items

- Come prepared on Jan 18 to maximize committee time