



City of Seattle



Meeting Minutes

Thursday, February 20, 2020 | 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Seattle City Hall, Boards & Commissions Conference Room L-280

600 4th Avenue, Seattle Washington

Commissioners Present: Chris Brown, Latosha Correll, Michael Garrett, Kari Lerum, Victor Loo, Nate Higby, Wayne Rocque, John Rodriguez, Sabel Roizen, Joseph Suttner, and Manuel Venegas

Commissioners Absent: Jessi Murray, Byram Simpson, and Deepa Sivarajan

SOCR Staff: Janet Stafford

Meeting Minutes recorded by: Chris Brown

Guests: Deaunte Damper, Brett Pepowski, Micki, Clare, Collin, The Square Group - Sprout

Welcome and Introductions

Public Open Comment

1. Micki (she/her): New to Seattle, interested in being a commissioner
 - a. Responses from commissioners: We're currently full based on waiting for confirmation through our last round of interviews, but there are other ways to be involved!
2. Clare: Created an Employee Resource Group for LGBTQ+ at consulting firm in Redmond about six months ago
 - a. Includes internal programming, also interested in finding out more about outreach and advocacy in the community

Approve January Minutes and February Agenda

1. Motion to approve February agenda with below edits. **Motion passes (100%)**
 - a. Reassign sections assigned to Byram Simpson and Deepa Sivarajan to Kari Lerum.
2. Motion to approve January minutes. **Motion passes (11 in favor, 1 abstention)**

Seattle Office of Civil Rights (SOCR) Report – Janet Stafford

1. Ongoing transition within SOCR since Deputy Director Oscar Cerda is leaving

2. Reverting back to commission structure that was there below – Commission unit under Policy department, headed by Caedmon Magboo Cahill
 - a. Caedmon still seeking feedback on the pilot that SOCR tried with liaisons
 - b. Janet will continue as liaison through June of this year – until the position is posted as permanent, there won't be any staffing changes
3. Parking is available to commissioners, need to work with Janet to get a parking pass
 - a. Parking is also available for Commission-related events but need advance notice
4. New commissioners need badgers – speak to Janet about them

Committee Reports

1. Social Media & Communications: Report from Joseph Suttner
 - a. Regular meetings are scheduled for first Monday of the month at 6 p.m.
 - b. Met earlier this year, reviewed accomplishments from last year and ideas for 2020
 - c. Videos were successful but took a lot of time, need to scale back this year
 - d. Sabel is interested in exploring podcasts, brainstorming how to go about that
 - e. Working with Deepa on resolution re: human rights in India continued with a pattern where taking a strong stance on things does well for us on social media
 - i. Could be timely/topical or not – can include things commissioners have strong feelings on
 - ii. Figure out format first, then can have more in-depth conversation about topics, frequency, participation, hosting
 1. Ideas include rotating hosts, or one recurring and one rotating partner
 - iii. Invite LGBTQ community out to podcasts, storytelling and video stories
 - iv. When we talk to ambassador groups, look for strong stories they'd like to tell
 - v. If interested, talk to Joseph, Kari, or Sabel
 - f. Questions/comments from commissioners:
 - i. Nate Higby: What kinds of videos did we do last year?
 1. Joseph: Highlighted LGBTQ community leaders, no specific criteria but ended up doing them six to seven videos on healthcare and policy.
 - ii. Latosha Correll: Considering podcasting – make sure that fits into two-year workplan. Would love to work with whomever to do podcast and social media with cross-collaboration between committees.
 - iii. Kari Lerum: Excited about podcasting, would like to learn how to do it.
 - iv. Manuel Venegas: Can we share on social media when committees meet? And also make sure to share them in our own listserv.
2. POC Stakeholders Committee: Report from Latosha Correll
 - a. Monthly meetings on first Monday of the month at 6 p.m., temporary hold at the Seattle Public Library Columbia City branch
 - i. Hoping to meet in accessible public spaces, also looking at Beacon Hill or somewhere further south
 - ii. Committee looking to use Microsoft Teams or other platform to communicate with each other more easily, especially if two or fewer people are meeting
 - b. Workplan remains similar to 2019 – strategize about social deterrents of health, improving access to healthcare, intentionality in building partnerships
 - c. POC LGBTQ survey – work with community partners on this

- i. Resent budget request to listserv – CM Dan Strauss was interested in trying to figure out funding proposal for community data generation. Could go through Council instead of Mayor’s Office (MO).
 - d. Questions/comments from commissioners:
 - i. Annabelle Bachman: If we’re meeting online and posting committee meetings publicly, we may not necessarily know everyone who is attending.
 - ii. Victor Loo: Could we have an RSVP date to determine how many people are expected, and then decide on an in-person vs. online meeting? Does Microsoft Teams have an RSVP option? Could have group chat apps for private teams and Google Forms forum for RSVP-ing.
- 3. Community Outreach Committee: Report from Michael Garrett
 - a. Regular meetings are on second Saturdays at 11:30 a.m. at Café Victrolla on 15th Ave E in Capitol Hill.
 - b. Meetings in community: Most spaces in south Seattle were booked in Q2, trying to find alternatives to libraries
 - c. Ambassador program: Plan to send out description of proposed ambassador program and roles for each commissioner to newer members
 - d. Resource database: new Washington LGBTQ Commission also has that as one of their strategies, do we still want to take that on?
 - e. Questions/comments from commissioners:
 - i. Nate Higby: If we have community partners, we can ask them about potential spaces to hold meetings. Lots of meeting spaces require funding. If it’s important to us, we need to dedicate reserving funds for that purpose.
 - ii. Kari Lerum: There will be variations on cost, we’ll have to take on a case-by-case basis.
 - iii. Victor Loo: Some ideas include Asian Counseling and Referral Center, Seattle Central College, Seattle Counseling Services, etc.
 - iv. Michael Garrett: We were looking to find locations not in Capitol Hill and downtown, with the south end as a priority. Most libraries close at 8 p.m.
 - f. Victor Loo and Nate Higby to work together on a spreadsheet with possible locations.

5-chairs report

1. Last meeting included a presentation on transportation
2. Women’s Commission is pushing towards sending weekly reports to SOCR if not to the Mayor’s Office as well
 - a. Good way to start archiving the work we have done and trying to leverage more funding
3. Other commissions have drafted proposed operating budgets for themselves
 - a. Human Rights Commission asking for \$90,000 per year for high-cost events
 - b. If we want to increase beyond our current \$2,000/year budget, need someone to spearhead and start reaching out to councilmembers this budget cycle

Committee Chairs, Secretary, and Treasurer Election

1. Candidates were nominated for positions of committee chairs, secretary, and treasurer:
 - a. Deepa Sivarajan was nominated for the position of secretary.
 - b. Nate Higby and John Rodriguez were nominated for the positions of co-chairs of the Community Outreach Committee.

- c. Latosha Correll and Victor Loo were nominated for the positions of co-chairs of the People of Color Stakeholders Committee.
 - d. Manuel Venegas was nominated for the position of chair of the Commission Operations Committee.
 - e. Joseph Suttner was nominated for the position of chair of the Social Media Committee.
 - f. Annabelle Bachman was nominated for the position of treasurer, but was not yet eligible for election. The election for treasurer will be tabled until the next meeting.
2. Motion to elect all members nominated to the positions outlined above other than treasurer.

Motion passes (100%)

3. The members of the committees are as follows:
- a. Community Outreach Committee: Annabelle Bachman, Kari Lerum, Michael Garrett, Brett Pepowski, Jessi Murry, and Nate Higby
 - b. People of Color Stakeholders Committee: Latosha Correll, John Rodriguez, Maneul Venegas, Victor Loo, Nate Higby, Deepa Sivarajan
 - c. Commission Operations Committee: Manuel Venegas, Chris Brown, Annabelle Bachman, Deepa Sivarajan
 - d. Social Media Committee: Joseph Suttner, Chris Brown, John Rodriguez, Kari Lerum, Michael Garrett, Latosha Correll, Sabel Roizen
 - e. Executive Committee: Kari Lerum, Byram Simpson, John Rodriguez, Nate Higby, Latosha Correll, Victor Loo, Manuel Venegas, Deepa Sivarajan, and Joseph Suttner

City Council Engagement Strategy

- 1. Debrief from Commissioner Meet & Greet event: several staff members of councilmembers showed up, as well as CM Dan Strauss
 - a. Great networking opportunity for commissions
 - b. Could do additional meetings just with other commissions instead of elected
 - c. Women’s Commission is asking for \$100 to pitch in for the cost of the event
- 2. Motion to approve \$100 to give to the Women’s Commission for the event. Motion tabled until a treasurer is elected to keep track of our budgetary items.
- 3. At next committee meetings, committees should discuss whether they’ll have any budgetary needs this year.

Community Presentations at Monthly Meetings

- 1. Michael Garrett is part of Seattle Police Department (SPD) Crisis Intervention Committee, they are interested in coming to give a presentation – should it be to full commission or committees?
 - a. Community Outreach Committee should help find clarity on what kinds of briefings stay at the committee level and what comes to the full commission meeting
- 2. Questions/comments from commissioners:
 - a. Annabelle Bachman: If something is going to be actionable or pertinent for commission as a whole looking to vote, would make sense to bring to full commission. For informational sessions with a Q&A, that would probably better for the relevant committee.
- 3. Settled to invite presentations to committee for now.

HB 2907 and Provision Exempting Municipality Taxes

1. Bill introduced by State Rep. Nicole Macri (43rd LD), authorizes King County to tax business 0.1-0.2% payroll tax on business with a certain number of employees earning >\$150,000
 - a. Funding from bill earmarked to address housing crisis, including low-income housing
2. Original bill stalled out, replaced with a new bill that changed range to a fixed 0.25%, and only a fraction of that amount would go to municipalities
 - a. Concern that the bill as written would preempt municipalities from taking similar actions themselves
 - b. Would only generate \$110-\$150M per year, rather than the \$400M-\$1B that is needed to address housing crisis
 - c. HB 2907 and replacement both grant taxing power to King County, currently only municipalities can pass payroll taxes
3. Community groups and Seattle City Council have called for the bill to not include preemption
 - a. Potential to sign onto response that is coming from Councilmembers Sawant, Gonzales, and Morales around this
 - b. Tabled for discussion at next meeting

Announcements, Reminders, & Roll Call

1. Congratulations to Latosha Correll for the very successful Alphabet Alliance of Color event!
2. Roll Call: Nate Higby and Victor Loo will be absent at the April 16 meeting

(END 8:18)