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City of Seattle

Edward B. Murray, Mayor

Seattle LGBTQ Commission

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, August 17, 2016 | 6:30-8:30pm

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

600 4th Avenue, Seattle Washington

Commissioners Present: Manuel Venegas, Julia Riccardi, Katrina Sanford, Jean Nikki Hurley, Latosha Correll, Mitchell Chen, Hannah Johnson, Ian Irving Bradshaw, Ray Corona (phone)

Commissioners Absent: Anders McConachie, Joseph Suttner, and Ann Luetzow

SOCR Staff: Erika Pablo

Meeting Minutes recorded by: Nikki Hurley

Guests: Katelyn (Facilitator), Jessi Murray (new Get Engaged Commissioner), Dean Spade, Lev, Layla, Ellie Hernandez, Yani Robinson (Gender Justice League and former LGBTQ Commissioner)

Welcome

1. Announcement about guest sign in –
 - a. Hannah's last official meeting as a Get Engaged Commissioner

Public Open Comment

2. Dean Spade: Bill that Cantwell is supporting is terrifying to constituents that are participating in BSD which will be made illegal by this bill. Support the letter to Cantwell calling for her to oppose bill. Grateful that LGBTQ Commission is considering screening Pinkwashing documentary since there is history of this Commission with this issue. It is essential to screen this movie at city hall where the events took place.
3. Lev: appreciated that last time they came to the Commission meeting we were open to watching the trailer to Pinkwashing. As a queer Jew in Seattle, I support the BDS movement and reject the Israeli government using sexuality as a way to cover over atrocities. Highly support the screening of the Pinkwashing documentary. We've been showing up for years and making the same request. We want to collaborate with you, specifically regarding this documentary screening
4. Layla: Thanks for considering showing the movie, I really encourage you to screen it. This will be a great way to mitigate the event from the spring. The letter to Cantwell is wonderful and I see the BDS campaign as a queer issue. Adam Smith revoked his support of the House bill and think that putting pressure on Cantwell will be useful.
5. (Letter) Alissa Goss: The occupation of Palestine is horrific. LGBTQ Palestinians are targeted by the Israeli army. I support BDS and oppose the bill that is limiting the ability to engage in this campaign.
6. (Letter) Carl Davis: Complete support for the letter to Cantwell to withdrawal of support for the anti BDS bill

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7. **Approval of July Minutes and August Agenda.** Move the Pinkwashing and Cantwell letter before SOCR Report. Move to put the Mayor and Federal stance after the Pinkwashing and Cantwell discussion. If we don't get to the committee updates we can do them over email. (Julia, 2nd Manuel) **motion approved** (all)
 8. Discussion and Vote regarding Pinkwashing Documentary and anti-BDS legislation
 - a. Screening Discussion
 - i. Uncomfortable with the potential for backlash and need to announce that we're not the same Commission that made these decisions in the past. What are the options for filming in a more neutral location despite the request for it being in City Hall? If we host it as a Commission event and advertise it through Commission avenues the political aspect of that would be clear. The request from constituents has been to screen it at City Hall and it's important to listen to the voices that spoke last time and we didn't listen. Need to come up with a good plan for how to communicate this with the Council to avoid some of the mistakes we've made in the past. Plan on how our Commission wants to deal with the backlash. We need a contingency plan so that we don't apologize for something that we take a stance on, like in the past. Can we have a forum afterwards so that people can get resources and information from community groups and about the Commission as well. Hoping to keep the discussion ongoing. What is the reasoning behind moving the location? Having it in City Hall would increase the emotions of some of the people that we have to work with on a regular basis. We need to make a decision about how to manage our effectiveness as a Commission. Showing the film as part of Commissioning onboarding is a great idea.
 - b. Motion to screen the film is unanimous with the contingency that we come up with an open discussion about details in the future
 - c. Motion to send an edited letter to Cantwell is unanimous
 9. Vote on Overall Stance Regarding Mayor Murray's Conduct
 - a. Human Rights Commission signed onto our letter to the Mayor. The Commission for People with disAbilities is sending their own letter. The Women's Commission is voting on a similar letter Monday, August 21st
 - b. The Commission is continuing to support the stance that was articulated in the letter. Compile a list of organizations that signed onto our letter. Continue to have conversations with community letters. Have follow up emails to CMs with specific requests. Do we still want to encourage community members to call CMs? We are working on a plan to engage with community members about our stance, the racial dynamics, and how to get involved. This fact sheet will circulate to the Commission then to organizations and community members. Updates to the letter are needed – change status to history
 - c. Adopting the stance alongside the suggested actions passed unanimously.
 10. Vote on Stance Regarding Federal Anti-LGBTQ Actions
 - a. What is the action that we're talking about- what are our next steps with the statement? A public statement/press release. Change the second paragraph to
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focus on discrimination rather than keeping our military strong. Anyone who feels the same should work with Joseph to edit this. Would like to include in the top paragraph the rollback of protections of trans students using the bathrooms of their gender identity. Add a paragraph that includes the purpose of the LGBTQ in this statement that calls out other aspects of systems of oppression that Trump upholds and strengthens. We could support the effort of Rep. Jayapal to censure Trump for these actions. Include other ways to engage with our Senators. This is more of a letter to our community letting them know that we're thinking about this and talking about the things that we're trying to support locally—could include actions that we're taking to safeguard our constituents and ways they can interact with us. All Commissions in the 5 Commissions (minus the Immigrant and Refugee who wasn't there) will sign on to the statement that we put out. Add Betsy Devos by name.

- b. Motion to put out the statement with the proposed edits passes unanimously

11. Trans Survey Data and Snapshot- Yani Robinson

a. Trans Survey Data

- i. NCTE event on Tuesday surveyed 27,000 trans people in this country—Trans people are more comfortable answering the survey up from the last time where there were only about 5,000 survey responses. Many people running for office attended the event. Picked community members to speak about their experiences in the city and asking candidates to do something
 - 1. we really need to prioritize housing
 - 2. the Commission needs to have greater voice pushing for housing in this city

b. Snapshot/needs assessment

- i. 2SGDQTPOC- 2 Spirit, Gender Diverse, Queer, Trans, People of Color (alphabet alliance). Convene people of color who are working in mostly white LGBTQ orgs to build collective power through funding and capacity. Transform Washington, Gender Justice League, Got Green, API Chaya all committed to working together in the future. Working to build an intergenerational movement. Pull stories from the community to create a report – how to decolonize your LGBTQ org, how to bring racial justice into your work that isn't just employee specific. Timeline – plans for collecting data/stories through May, report comes out in May, and bigger event in March.
 - ii. Asks – funding, time, and skills. The Commission can sign on at any time
- c. In 2011 the LGBT Commission put out a snapshot report whose data is still being used today and in 2016 the LGBTQ Commission started to work on an update that focused largely on people of color and trans people.
 - d. Meeting at Seattle Girls School and will be added to the email list
 - e. How do we get the city of Seattle to use the 2011 data with the knowledge that is very skewed towards white gay cis men?

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- i. LGBTQ Allyship is already doing this work so we're gathering that information but it's not being sent back to the community
 - f. The model for this group is an all POC LGBTQ organization
 - i. People's Movement Assembly (PMA)
 - ii. People will be paid for their time and stories
 - iii. These stories will be used to educate
 - g. Suggestion to put \$1000 of this budget to towards the alliance – how would this money be set aside. Joining the coalition/alliance is low barrier.

12. Vote for Executive Positions- all positions go until the retreat in December

- a. Secretary
 - i. Nikki Hurley – unanimous
- b. Chair for the POC Stakeholder Committee
 - i. Katrina Sanford and Latosha Correll as co-chairs – unanimous
- c. Committee allocations for new commissioners
 - i. Internal Affairs (Julia is chair) – Joseph, Ian
 - ii. Policy and Departmental Collaboration (Hannah and Anders are co-chairs) – Katrina, Jessi, Ann, Manuel
 - iii. Community Education and Outreach (Ray is chair) – Ian, Nikki, Mitchell, Latosha
 - iv. People of Color Stakeholder (new co-chairs Katrina and Latosha) – Ian, Manuel

13. Homelessness Status Report from George Scarola

- a. We are at a crisis- the things that are discussed in the letter are not discussed in enough detail. We will work on another correspondence detailing what we want and what we could be doing better to send to Scarola – ongoing discussion. Other Commissions want to work with this commission to create more recommendations and push on Scarola to advocate further. Some council members have asked us for budgetary recommendations—this could be part of those recommendations
- b. Next steps: Scarola's letter should go back to the Policy and Departmental Collaboration committee to ascertain next steps
 - i. budgetary recommendations
 - ii. send to 5-Chairs listserv

14. SOCR Report

- a. Councilmember Herbold is calling for the Office of Civil Rights to become an independent office- asked the Commission to support this by mid-September because of: enforcement of discrimination, racial equity toolkit, any Commission work that is limited, monitoring encampments and removal work
 - i. Vote to support: unanimous

ADJOURN (8:53 PM)