



City of Seattle



Meeting Minutes

Thursday, October 17, 2019 | 6:30 – 8:30 PM

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

600 4th Avenue, Seattle Washington

Commissioners Present: Michael Garrett, Kari Lerum, Nate Higby, Wayne Rocque, Sabel Roizen, Katrina Sanford, Byram Simpson, Deepa Sivarajan, Joseph Suttner, and Manuel Venegas

Commissioners Absent: Latosha Correll and Jessi Murray

SOCR Staff: Janet Stafford

Meeting Minutes recorded by: Deepa Sivarajan

Guests: Harold Odom (Human Services Department), Anquita Adams (Commission for People with disAbilities)

Welcome and Introductions

1. Welcome to Nate Higby, new commissioner through Get Engaged!

Public Open Comment

1. Harold Odom (HSD): This month and next month, HSD will do a learning circle on how to better educate service providers. Would love to get someone from this commission who could help train service providers at shelters.
 - a. Data shows that many people who come to shelters, discrimination is rampant if you're not white or male. Would love to get someone from the lived community who could voice that better in our learning circles.
 - b. Contact Harold with interest: Harold.Odom@seattle.gov

Approve October Agenda and August and September Minutes

1. Motion to approve October agenda with below edits. **Motion passes (100%)**
 - a. Add approval of August minutes

- b. Remove Real Change letter from agenda
- 2. Motion to approve August minutes. **Motion passes (8 in favor, 2 abstentions)**
- 3. Motion to approve September minutes. **Motion passes (6 in favor, 4 abstentions)**

Seattle Office of Civil Rights (SOCR) Report

- 1. SOCR report from Janet Stafford
- 2. Recruitment: received 19 applications, conducting at least 17 interviews for new commissioners
 - a. Thanks to Katrina for coordinating!
 - b. Last interviews will be next week; after that will need to schedule a meeting to discuss which candidates will move forward
 - c. Dimitri from CM Herbold's office has been in the interviews; Dominique from Mayor's Office has also been involved at the back-end
 - d. After selection, we proceed with paperwork – may be more like early 2020
- 3. Annual Boards & Commissions Appreciation Night will be on November 7, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. at Bertha Knight Landes Room in City Hall
 - a. If you want to attend and/or bring a guest, let Janet know
- 4. Roller derby event happened last month and had a great turnout!

Committee Reports

- 1. Community Outreach: Report from Michael Garrett
 - a. Meetings in community:
 - i. West Seattle Senior Center secured the location for November meeting
 - 1. Need to make sure that information gets on our website
 - ii. Meeting in first quarter of 2020 will likely be at the Beacon Hill Library
 - b. Ambassador Program: each commissioner would have 1-2 community organizations that they would serve as the Commission's representative to that organization
 - i. Encourage each commissioner to think of 1-2 organizations that you would like
- 2. POC Stakeholders Committee: Report from Manuel Venegas
 - a. Alphabet Alliance of Color (AAoC) filled out SOCR event check-list for the event that the Commission is co-sponsoring in January
 - i. Event to highlight work of queer and trans people of color in Seattle, as well as launching the summer institute series led by AAoC
 - ii. Likely date for the event is January 17, 2020
 - b. Letter for budget line item: Requesting \$20,000 for people of color survey
 - i. Latosha to forward to the rest of the Commission for comments/edits
- 3. Commission Operations: Report from Deepa Sivarajan
 - a. Request for new members on Commission Operations committee!
 - b. Using the onboarding document, and clarifying onboarding process

Cross-Commission Candidate Forum Debrief

- 1. Attended by Jessi, Joseph, Katrina, Michael; event attended by at least 50 people
- 2. Any feedback for the future?
 - a. Confusion with role of Jessi vs. Sydney Brownstone as moderators – can commissioners moderate this kind of event?
 - b. More notification of event – take questions on Facebook pages, livestream event
 - i. Livestreaming was explored but it wasn't able to happen

- c. Jessi did the bulk of the work on planning the event – other commissions were not as involved, would like to see more collaboration
3. Event generally received well and was as success, especially given that it was our first time holding this kind of event

Update on Hate Crimes Legislation

1. Legislation has been delayed; expected to be discussed again on November 25 in full council, but could be delayed again given current budget discussions
2. Byram still working with CM Herbold's office to get a meeting on the books before discussed in council again to get a full understanding with what came of the Racial Equity Toolkit

Retreat Planning

1. Reminder that two co-chair seats may be up since Jessi and Katrina are term-limited in seeking another term as co-chair
 - a. Think about whether you might be interested!
2. Secretary position needs to come up again; might want to include a Treasurer position
3. Potential updates to bylaws around positions and attendance policy
4. Review two-year workplan and assess how well it worked
5. Potential to invite speakers for event
 - a. City Councilmembers, or Council staff – or someone who could help us workshop engaging with budget process and legislative cycle
6. Action items:
 - a. Deepa to send out Doodle poll for potential dates
 - b. Everyone to send in notes about what they want

Announcements, Reminders, & Roll Call

1. Katrina: Seattle Women's Commission set up two-day event around domestic violence, pretty well attended – we had allocated \$150 for food and they thanked us!
2. Byram: Police Accountability Candidate Forum happened on October 16, it was livestreamed and link has been sent out – to be shared on social media
 - a. Judge also ruled on methodology regime in consent decree and set deadline of late November for getting a new methodology to return to compliance
3. Kari: Met with councilmembers around recommendation to no longer prosecute soliciting for prostitution; last month sex workers arrested for prostitution again
 - a. Open letter written by a number of organizations condemning that move by the Seattle Police Department (SPD)
 - b. Directly related to a right-wing group of citizens in north Seattle who are calling police
4. Manuel: Seattle Human Rights Commission wants to understand our position supporting the decriminalization of loitering and prostitution
 - a. They have a subcommittee on human trafficking that meets November 14 – Kari will attend
5. Manuel: Commission for People with disAbilities conducting their annual inclusion jubilee; invitation for all of us to attend on Wednesday, November 13 at 6 p.m. at Washington Hall (153 14th Ave)

- a. Event is called “Closed Captioning”, to acknowledge and celebrate individuals and businesses who support the rights of people with disabilities
- 6. Deepa: Kari and Deepa are speaking at a UW Nursing class about LGBTQ health on Wednesday, October 23 – if anyone else interested in joining, let Deepa know
- 7. Michael: OutRight is having an event at Swedish Hospital (First Hill) about ending conversion therapy on Wednesday, October 30 from 6 – 8 p.m.
 - a. Same day as Washington Mental Health Summit at UW Husky building

(END 8:11)