



City of Seattle



Meeting Minutes

Thursday, May 21st, 2020, Meeting via Skype

Commissioners Present: Victor Loo, Kari Lerum, Annabelle Backman, Chris Brown, Michael Garrett, Byram Simpson, Manuel Venegas, Nate Higby, John Rodriguez, Deaunte Damper

Commissioners Absent: Joseph Suttner, Latosha Correll, Jessi Murray, Wayne Rocque, Sabel Roizen, Brett Pepowski, and Deepa Sivarajan

SOCR Staff: Janet Stafford

Meeting Minutes recorded by: Chris Brown

Guests:

Welcome and Introductions

1. We are meeting virtually on Zoom because of the ongoing COVID-19 crisis and guidelines around social distancing. We'll be recording our meetings to have available for the public.

Public Open Comment

1. No public comment.

Approve March and April Minutes and May Agenda

1. Motion to approve March and April Minutes with below edits. Kari moves motion to approve, Victor seconds. **Motion passes (9 Yes, 1 Abstention)**
 - a. Format April minutes to template
2. Motion to approve May agenda with below additions. Michael moves motion to approve, Victor seconds. **Motion passes (100%)**
 - a. Addition of conversation on encampment sweeps
 - b. Addition of updates from City of Seattle I.T. department
 - c. Edit to name Jessi
 - d. Addition to agenda item on reappointment: position of secretary

Reappointments and extensions

1. 7 seats are up for extensions and reappointments with term end date of 4/30/20, 2 seats are up for extensions and reappointments with term end date 10/31/20, and the Get Engaged seat has a term end date of 8/31/20. Delays in city council committee meetings due to State of Emergency OMPA restrictions there are no meetings scheduled for the reappointments. Existing Commissioners can remain voting members as long as they are officially invited by the Commission to remain and not have resigned with or without confirmation of council.
2. Deepa Sivarajan has requested to take a leave of absence. A conversation about active Commissioners who are on a leave of absence and extensions of leaves: Joseph Suttner, Jessi Murray, Wayne Rocque, and Deepa Sivarajan. Need to check in with these Commissioners as they have seats up for extension and reappointment.
 - a. Motion to consider the reappointment and extension of all Commissioners except for Wayne who have a term end date of 4/30/20. Michael motions to approve, Kari seconds
Motion passes (7 Yes, 3 Abstention)

Committee Reports

1. POC Stakeholders Committee: Report from Victor Loo
 - a. Victor and Latosha attended the AAOC monthly April meeting. Collaborating to create a virtual platform.
 - b. Pride ASIA is May 31st. Victor and Chris are working SOCR to get a proclamation for Pride ASIA.
 - c. May is Asian American Heritage Month
2. Commission Operations Committee: Report from Manuel Venegas, Annabelle Backman, Chris Brown
 - a. Meeting on Commission extensions and reappointments, updates from Seattle I.T., Commission attendance, and Flag Raising Event
 - b. City of Seattle I.T. update: I.T. is recommending that Commissioners use SharePoint rather than existing tools to store and manage documents. Also recommend using Office 365 through web applications for document editing and collaboration. They also recommend using Skype for Business to conduct meetings.
 - c. A conversation on licensing agreements and whether Commission can function with new tools. Follow-up meeting to determine when this policy is to start. Concern about using Commission Google accounts (.com) to access and manage City documents meant for (.gov) while department has been reluctant to provide Commissioners (.gov) accounts.
 - d. A question on moving documents to a central SharePoint location. Keep storing on existing platforms until direction from City on moving documents.
 - e. A question on using Skype for Business while maintaining OPMA guidelines in making meetings accessible to the public. Zoom is the current platform, but there are legitimate security concerns about this platform. SOCR to follow up on Zoom: it is not allowed to be used for the monthly meetings, but it may be used for committee meetings. There are other platforms that the City supports that we could use: Microsoft Team and WebEx.
3. Social Media Committee: Report from Kari Lerum
 - a. Virtual film project is on hold. 2 UW librarians are interested in participating.

- b. Gay City to launch a bi-weekly lunchtime series on LGBTQIA+ issues starting in June. June 2nd series to feature topic of queer youth homelessness. Gay City requests the Seattle LGBTQ Commission participate in a supporting role.
- 4. Community Engagement Committee: Report from Nate Higby
 - a. no meeting in May. Reached out to community partners from the Commission Political and Community Roster

Flag Raising Event

- 1. Motion to spend up to \$600 on event for speakers. Michael motions to approve, Kari seconds. **Motion passes (8 Yes)**
 - a. Need blessing from indigenous community
- 2. Motion to spend up to \$100 to buy a new Commission banner. Michael motions to approve, Annabelle seconds. **Motion passes (8 Yes)**
 - a. A conversation on purchasing stickers for Pride events. Since no in-person events planned and pride events have turned to virtual meetings, then there won't be a need to buy stickers.

DOJ – SPD Consent Decree

- 1. A conversation on updates to the consent decree. City is partially out of compliance on accountability measures. City is taking steps to remain in compliance and lift from DOJ oversight. Community Police Commission and other community organizations have coordinated meetings and letters for Commissions to sign onto.

5-Chairs May meeting

- 1. A quarterly meeting on updates from Civil Rights Commissions and the Immigrant & Refugee Commission. Meeting to update on the DOJ – SPD Consent Decree and the COVID impacts on OPMA/Commission business. Seattle LGBTQ Commission and Seattle Women's Commission present.

Homeless Encampment Sweeps

- 1. A conversation on updates to recent sweeps. CDC recommended that cities stop this process which could exacerbate the spread of COVID, but the City has continued to sweep encampments. In King County there have been over 200 COVID related cases and 8 deaths in the homeless community. City Council is considering legislation that would ban the sweeps during the public health emergency.
- 2. A comment on impact of encampments in the Chinatown-International District. Any conversations on legislation should have this community represented in the response.

SOCR Report

- 1. SOCR is working with the Community Police Commission to try to get updates to all of the Civil Rights Commissions on engagement with DOJ Consent Decree.
- 2. Updates to office organization: Caedmon is on leave so Erika Pablo is interim policy manager.
- 3. SOCR is updating Racial Equity Toolkit and sharing with city departments to apply the toolkit as departments prepare for budget cuts due to lost revenues from the public health emergency.

Announcements, Reminders, & Roll Call

- 1. Reminders on committee meeting schedule:

- a. Social Media Committee meeting 1st Mondays at 6pm
 - b. People of Color Stakeholders Committee meeting 1st Mondays at 6pm
 - c. Commission Operations meeting 2nd Thursdays at 6pm
 - d. Community Outreach Committee meeting 2nd Saturdays at 11am
2. Virtual Flag Raising event is Monday, June 1st 3:30pm – 5pm

(END 8:30)