



# City of Seattle

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## Meeting Minutes

Thursday, February 21, 2019 | 6:30 – 8:30 PM

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

600 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Seattle Washington

**Commissioners Present:** Chris Brown, Jessi Murray, Julia Ricciardi, Katrina Sanford, Manuel Venegas, Lindsay Church, Deepa Sivarajan, Latosha Correll, Sabel Roizen, Kari Lerum, Michael Garrett, Lauren Boling, Joseph Suttner, and Ely Hernandez

**Commissioners Absent:** Kari Lerum, Byram Simpson, Alejandro Castillo

**SOCR Staff:** Erika Pablo

**Meeting Minutes recorded by:** Chris Brown

**Guests:** Annie Tran

### Welcome and Introductions

### Public Open Comment

1. None

### Approve December Minutes and January Agenda

1. Motion to approve January minutes with below edits. **Motion passes (12 approved, 1 abstention)**
2. Motion to approve January agenda with below edits. **Motion passes (100%)**
  - a. Jessi to lead sections of agenda initially assigned to Byram

### Democracy Voucher Program Report

1. Democracy Voucher Program was a citizen-led initiative that passed with a 63% vote in 2015, with a property tax levy to fund the program
  - a. Vouchers are mailed to all registered voters and those who apply to the program – each person receives four \$25 vouchers
2. In 2019, seven out of nine Seattle City Council seats are on the ballot
  - a. People can give vouchers to candidates in any city district
  - b. There are currently 32 candidates accepting vouchers
3. Program results from 2017 (first year in operation): 20,000 residents returned 80,000 vouchers, with \$1.14 million distributed to six campaigns

- a. Before vouchers, only 1% of voters gave to candidates; now it's 3 – 4% of residents
- 4. Vouchers were mailed out on February 12 this year – if someone has not received, they can contact the program online to get replacement vouchers
  - a. In the first week of launching this year, received 5,000 vouchers back
- 5. To qualify to receive vouchers, candidates have filed for candidacy, have received at least 150 contributions of \$10 or more each, receive signatures from 150 residents (at least 75% of which must come from their district), and have pledged to the program
  - a. Once pledged to the program, the candidates participate in three public debates during the primary and general elections
  - b. Candidates can spend a limit of \$75,000 and have until May to join the program
  - c. If a candidate has not yet fulfilled the pledge requirements, vouchers submitted to their campaign will be held for them
  - d. Once vouchers are submitted to a candidate, the person who submitted them cannot change them or get them back, even if the candidate drops out
- 6. Working on outreach to increase participation rate, to attract and communicate the issues that really matter, and working to reach underserved communities
  - a. City opened RFP in December, working with 10 community organizations funding \$159k in total that cover the language community
  - b. Candidate statements and other documents are translated into 14 languages available on the program website
  - c. Have interns working specifically with the LGBTQ community and East African communities
  - d. Looking for organizations and people to join the advisory committee, which meets quarterly between 8 AM and 5 PM on weekdays
  - e. Works with Compass Housing Alliance and other service organizations to reach unsheltered and unhoused people, and evaluating data from 2017
  - f. Don't have to be eligible to vote to participate – anyone can sign up
- 7. Asks of the LGBTQ Commission:
  - a. Advise on how to reach different populations, including LGBTQ population
  - b. Provide input on the materials available currently at <http://seattle.gov/democracvoucher>

### **Seattle Office of Civil Rights (SOCR) Report**

- 1. City attorneys/LAW are doing an initial review of our bylaws – Erika will connect Commission Operations with city attorney as a resource for additional question
  - a. Most recent bylaws are from May 2018 and have been posed to our website
- 2. Evan Philip, our previous liaison at the Mayor's Office has left the City – currently there is a rethinking of the structure of liaisons to SOCR commissions
  - a. Dominique Stephens, former LGBTQ commissioner, is likely to staff our commission
  - b. Having a meeting with Mayor's Office and commission liaisons next week
  - c. Asks: we'd like face time with mayor or deputy mayors if possible
- 3. Pride flag location – likely at City Hall
- 4. Racial Equity Toolkit (RET) – SOCR is going through this process currently
  - a. Need more of an orientation for commissioners on the RET process
    - i. Materials from our 2018 retreat included intro to RET and the Race and Social Justice Initiative
  - b. Thoughts about whether SOCR should be independent from the Mayor's Office
  - c. Across the City, questions about whether RET process should have an enforcement tool associated with them to make RET work more effective

5. Appointments – Wayne was supposed to be appointed to a mayor seat last year but now will likely be appointed to a Council seat
  - a. We have a few other vacancies – need to make sure we can actually get new candidates confirmed before we ramp up recruitment
6. Mariko Lockhart is Mayor’s final appointment for director of SOCR
7. Displacement – Mayor signed Executive Order on residential displacement, and CM Herbold is likely to push for a displacement ordinance

### **City’s Homelessness Response**

1. Controversy about appointment of Jason Johnson as director of Human Services Department
  - a. Internal hire, CM Sawant and some organizations felt the process wasn’t transparent and that they could not provide input
    - i. Petition from 130 employees within the department as well
  - b. Look into in case next month we want to make a recommendation
2. City of Seattle and King County signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to have a unified entity that will address homelessness
  - a. Trying to consolidate funding and policy-making power under one group that will be impacted by county and the city
  - b. Main goals of 2019: getting things off the ground for a regional action plan, community stakeholder process, co-locating key staff, getting other cities within the county to adopt an agreement
3. Is there a way to leverage and get corporations to create homes for shelter like Microsoft is doing?

### **Committee Report-Outs and Work Planning**

1. Committee report-outs for January
  - a. POC Stakeholders Committee: was not able to meet in January
  - b. Commission Operations: discussed getting Google Drive up to speed, creating a single email address for the Secretary position, recording a more formal onboarding process for new commissioners, having a system for committee report-outs, posting bylaws publicly, getting more involved in the budgeting process, and considering the use of an Executive Committee
  - c. Equity & Policy Committee: discussed how to transition to a two-year workplan; decided that this committee was not necessary, that work could be shifted to other committees based on the issues; talked about reviving Coffee with Commissioners, looking at homelessness, anti-poverty, and anti-racist work, working with the re-entry workgroup, and reading the auditor’s report on the navigation team
  - d. Community Outreach & Communication: discussed strategies for reaching elected officials, onboarding of new City Council members, consider hosting a candidate forum with four other commissions, setting a number of meetings out in the community per quarter or year, 1 – 2 education forums per year, pipeline for social media posts, at least one meeting with the Mayor, public comment for workplans
2. Discussion on two-year workplans – we voted to go with a two-year workplan at the 2018 retreat
  - a. For examples, look at Seattle Women’s Commission
3. Finalizing committees, members, and co-chairs – vote on co-chairs for committees listed below  
**(Motion passes, 100%)**
  - a. POC Stakeholders Committee:
    - i. Co-Chairs: Latosha Correll and Ely Hernandez
    - ii. Other Members: Deepa Sivarajan, Katrina Sanford, and Manuel Venegas

- b. Commission Operations
  - i. Co-Chairs: Deepa Sivarajan and Lauren Boling
  - ii. Other Members: Sabel Roizen and Chris Brown
- c. Community Outreach:
  - i. Co-Chairs: Alejandro Castillo and Michael Garrett
  - ii. Other Members: Katrina Sanford, Joseph Suttner, Lindsay Church, Latosha Correll, and Jessi Murray
- d. Communications & Social Media:
  - i. Chair: Joseph Suttner
  - ii. Other Members: Jessi Murray, Sabel Roizen, Chris Brown, and Michael Garrett
- 4. Vote on co-chairs for committees listed below
  - a. POC Stakeholders Committee:

**Announcements, Reminders, & Roll Call for Next Meeting**

1. 5-chairs meeting is happening next week – if you want something brought up in the meeting, send to co-chairs
2. Executive Committee – further conversation at next meeting
3. Kari to provide an update on repeal of portions of law on trafficking and prostitution – keep up with Kari’s meetings with councilmembers

(END 8:34)