



City of Seattle

Ed Murray, Mayor

Seattle Women's Commission

MINUTES

Seattle Women's Commission
Boards and Commissions Conference Room L280
600 Fourth Avenue, City Hall
Monday, March 20, 2017, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Commissioners Present: Teresa Springer, Loida C. Erhard, Michele Frix, Mergitu Argo, Xochitl Maykovich, Alyson Palmer, Ruchika Tulshyan, Tracey Whitten, Keisha Jackson, Alison Mondj, Rokea Jones, Idabelle Fosse, Jacquee Kurdas, Tara Cookson, Erica Soelling

Commissioners Calling In: None

Commissioners Absent/Excused/Leave: Jaron Reed Goddard, Honey Jo Herman, Elsa Batres-Boni, Nicki Olivier-Hellenkamp, Morgan Beach

Start time: 5:33 PM

Announcements:

- CAIR bowling team of at least 4 or 5 for the annual bowl-a-thon; need punny names
- Approval of minutes: Minutes approved (100%)
- Tara Cookson would like to be on Economic and Educational Opportunity

Report back on International Women's Day

All Commissioners

- Ruchika – Excellent day speaking with Morgan. Shaun King, Pussy Riot, energizing experience
- Talked about Paid Family Leave, got really good feedback from the audience
- Mergitu – ReWA: Better attendance than previous years
- Teresa – attended event at Governor's mansion. 15th anniversary of Kicking Up the Heels event
- Keisha – Reading of the proclamation on International Women's Day with Erica

Updates from Policy Leads

Policy Leads

- Xochitl – Upzoning in Downtown & SLU: build affordable units or pay 2.5% into affordability fund.
 - Affordable units have an expiration date.
 - Committee Hearing tomorrow (3/21/17) to discuss upzoning.
 - Good resource: "Evicted" by Matthew Desmond, current system "locks up Black men, and locks out Black women."
 - Tell City Council: we want you to: A. justify affordability requirements with math; B. if you can't justify requirement, need to bump it up. (NYC is requiring 25%. Developers need to pay into affordability. The City is expecting developers to pay into fund instead of building affordable units.) C. explore ways to encourage developers to opt into building affordable housing because development inherently causes displacement.
 - **Move that we have a representative of the SWC who will testify before the land use committee on the up-zone affordability percentage requirement. – 100% approval**
 - We're representing on this behalf because this is important for women. We will submit a letter on behalf of the commission.
 - Erica will be representative at tomorrow's meeting
- Xochitl – Renter's Commission – important to have it filled with people in renter's organizations because tenants will be afraid to speak out against their landlords.

- Rokea – on HALA focus group. City will continue to up-zone across city. Affordable housing will look more like Othello Housing. Storefronts. Median income is \$36,000/year. TANF is only \$400/month max. Not even section 8 is meeting rental requirements of Seattle area. Still creating more segregation. HALA had set things, they wanted HALA focus groups to approve it in the focus group.
- Tracey – Childcare Policy: Childcare Task Force assembled by Councilmember Herbold to study the potential of a multiemployer voucher system to offset cost of childcare in the University District.
 - Not sure where things stand with developing.
 - Xochitl: Councilmember O'Brian's "Street Vacation" – has different expectations between developers and community organizations for what constitutes community enhancement by developers—but could be used to leverage childcare.
- Ruchika – Paid Family Leave (PFL): meeting with Seattle Chamber of Commerce for off the record meeting about PFL next month; will update at next meeting.
 - Asked to write a piece for Crosscut about "what can we do at a state and local level if Planned Parenthood funding gets cuts?" – wants to write as a Commissioner. Needs to be done the first week of April.
 - **Motion to allow Ruchika to write an article as a SWC Commissioner about funding for PP if it gets defunded. – 100% approval.**
- Ruckika – Catalyze Seattle: research about lack of gender parity in tech startups to find out about their experiences.
 - 70% of men & <1% of women in local tech startups had a spouse who's a stay-at-home parent.
 - Good data and good numbers from a small study for future use if needed: catalyzeseattle.org

Work Plan Check-In & Strategy

All Commissioners

- Idabelle: Someone needs to change the bylaws to reflect new structure of Policy Leads
 - Address: How do these things happen?
 - Some folks who have been on the commission for a long time have lots of institutional knowledge. It would be good to train us all in doing those things
 - Michelle: 2013 – bylaws rewritten after several years. Approved in June 2014. Rewrote sections and sent texts with highlighted changes for everyone to review and then voted on them at next meeting. Was interfacing with SOCR to ensure it was legitimate.
 - Tracey: have ways of transferring institutional knowledge at each committee meeting (e.g. how to write proclamations, how to connect with Councilmembers, walkthrough how to write a resolution, looking at historical legislative action of the SWC, different relationships the SWC has had previously with Councilmembers, organizations, and others, invite former members to our panel, etc.) Have a way to concretize our standard operating procedures & institutional knowledge. Invite Councilmembers and have them bring a legislative aid – have this be an entryway into meeting with Councilmembers.
 - Mergitu: we used to have an assigned councilmember who you kept up with.
 - **April 17th: Invite past commissioners back. Share how the SWC has historically impacted change. Also, getting driving forces behind advancing policy changes with the current Mayor (e.g. local labor leaders)**
 - **May: Loren to present about resolution drafting & structure ("The Anatomy of a Resolution") and Proclamations**
 - **June: Using prior policy initiatives as case studies**
 - **Co-chairs to assign Commissioners to Councilmembers**
- Michelle: Denim Day – April is Sexual Assault Month (April 26th – Denim Day: campaign against Italian ruling stating a woman consented to her rape by wearing tight jeans). Endorse
 - Move that the SWC endorse the global campaign called "Denim Day" observed on April 26th, including outreach to key partners in the City of Seattle – 100% approval.
 - DenimDayInfo.org – Peace Over Violence Organization
 - Will need to write a proclamation.

Jeannette Williams Award

All Commissioners

- Individual, Organization, and Business

- Look at strategy to solicit nominations
- Loida can compile what we have in terms of outreach and helping to determine outreach strategy

Surge

All Commissioners

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- **Move to endorse Surge's proclamation on providing access to vulnerable populations as discussed at February 2017 meeting – 100% approval**

SOCR Update

Loren Othon

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- Will send an email with updates to the commission
 - Brenda Anibarro will be contact when Loren is away next month

7:33 PM

Adjourn