



City of Seattle



Meeting Minutes

Thursday, January 16, 2020 | 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

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

600 4th Avenue, Seattle Washington

Commissioners Present: Chris Brown, Latosha Correll, Michael Garrett, Victor Loo, Jessi Murray, Nate Higby, John Rodriguez, Sabel Roizen, Byram Simpson, Deepa Sivarajan, Joseph Suttner, Manuel Venegas

Commissioners Absent: Kari Lerum and Wayne Rocque

SOCR Staff: Oscar Cerda

Meeting Minutes recorded by: Deepa Sivarajan

Guests: Deaunte Damper, Doreen (Seattle Police Department), Annabelle Bachman, Brett Pepowski

Welcome and Introductions

1. Welcome to new commissioners, Victor Loo and John Rodriguez!

Public Open Comment

1. Doreen: I'm the new LGBTQ liaison for Seattle Police Department, replacing Jim Ritter.
 - a. Manuel Venegas: Will you be continuing the LGBTQ community chats that Officer Ritter held?
 - i. Doreen: Those chats should have been organized by the community liaison so we're working with them. We're looking at scheduling them now.

Approve October Minutes and November Agenda

1. Motion to approve November minutes. **Motion passes (8 in favor, 4 abstentions)**
2. Motion to approve January agenda with below edits. **Motion passes (100%)**
 - a. Reassign sections assigned to Byram to Jessi Murray except for Committee Discussion, which will be committee leads.
 - b. Reassign SOCR Report to Oscar Cerda.

Seattle Office of Civil Rights (SOCR) Report – Janet Stafford

1. Seattle Women’s Commission holding a meet and greet with new councilmembers on February 10, 6:30 – 8 p.m; all five commissions are invited to attend.
2. New Council structure:
 - a. Council President is Lorena Gonzalez
 - b. Councilmember Tammy Morales will be recommended to be the chair of Community Economic Development Committee, which oversees SOCR
3. Quarterly commission trainings coming up, Oscar will circulate dates

Committee Reports

1. POC Stakeholders Committee: Report from Latosha Correll
 - a. Alphabet Alliance of Color (AAoC) kick-off event, “Reframe”, is taking place on January 31 from 6 – 8:30 p.m. at City Hall
 - i. Co-sponsored by 10 community organizations and CM Kshama Sawant’s office
 - ii. Aim is to look at elevating leadership of LGBTQ people of color and collaborate
 - b. Human Services Department LGBTQ Planning Work Group update from Manuel Venegas
 - i. Because of creation of new regional governance authority, that work will be moving from the City of Seattle
 - ii. Our original goal to influence the 2020 funding cycle isn’t going to happen, so not focusing on funding cycle in 2021
2. Commission Operations: Report from Deepa Sivarajan
 - a. Update on upcoming retreat on January 18 – Deepa will send out logistics and agenda
3. Community Outreach: Report from Michael Garrett
 - a. Working on setting up first-quarter community meeting at Beacon Hill Library
 - b. Community Police Commission representative wants to meet with commissioners as well

Comprehensive Sex Ed bill (state legislature)

1. Context on the H.B. 1407 and S.B. 5395
 - a. Main components of the bill include that public schools would have to offer comprehensive sex education and include discussions of consent, as well as information for LGBTQ and disabled students
 - b. Passed the Senate last session but got caught up in committee in the State House
 - c. Some amount of pushback has happened from the Queer Caucus in the legislature expressing disappointment that the
2. Co-chair of Seattle Women’s Commission interested in having joint statement with us in support of the bill
3. Questions and comments from commissioners:
 - a. John Rodriguez: Is this same bill that was dead in Olympia last year?
 - i. Jessi Murray: It is the same bill reintroduced in the 2020 legislative session
 - b. Byram Simpson: We did discuss this at our November meeting so it has been on people’s radars, so I’d like to encourage us to vote on it today
 - c. Annabelle: Who is the audience for this? Just Seattle representatives or the Democratic caucus?
 - i. Jessi Murray: We’re a nonpartisan body so wouldn’t be a party caucus.
 - ii. Chris Brown: Suggest addressing it to entire legislative body, not just Seattle representatives, since it’s a statewide bill.

4. Motion to support comprehensive sex education bill in Washington State Legislature. **Motion passes (11 in favor, 1 opposed)**

Sawant's resolution against religious persecution in India

1. Explanation by Deepa Sivarajan of situation in India
 - a. Government in India published an updated National Register of Citizens (NRC) in the state of Assam, which left at least 2 million people off the register (mostly Muslims) who are at risk of being rendered stateless
 - b. Indian legislature then passed the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) which would fast-track citizenship for immigrants who are Hindu, Sikh, Parsi, Jain, or Christian, but not Muslim
 - c. This religious criteria for citizenship is the first of its kind in India and leads many to believe that India is moving towards stripping its 200 million Muslim residents of citizenship and rights
 - d. Meanwhile, the state of Kashmir, which is majority Muslim, lost its semi-autonomous status last August and has been under periodic communications blockades and semi-martial law
 - e. This impacts all vulnerable populations, including LGBTQ+ people who do not have sufficient documentation to prove their citizenship (2,000 trans people were left off the NRC), and have been isolated by communications blockades and faced violence
2. CM Sawant introduced Resolution 31926 into Council this week, opposing the NRC and CAA and affirming Seattle as a welcoming place of people regardless of religion or caste
 - a. Resolution will go to a vote on Tuesday 1/21 at 2 p.m. – we could publish a letter of support and give public comment
3. Questions/comments from commissioners:
 - a. John Rodriguez: I support releasing a statement supporting Sawant's resolution, and I also want to mention that Rep. Pramila Jayapal has spoken out to uphold human rights abuses in Kashmir.
 - i. Deepa Sivarajan: Great point – CM Sawant's resolution doesn't mention Kashmir, but we can certainly take a stance on it and include it in our letter.
4. Motion to oppose India's National Register of Citizens, Citizenship Amendment Act, and government actions in Kashmir. **Motion passes (100%)**

Elect New Co-Chairs

1. Kari Lerum, Byram Simpson, and John Rodriguez were nominated for the position of co-chair of the Seattle LGBTQ Commission for the 2020 term.
2. Motion to elect John Rodriguez as a co-chair for 2020. **Motion passes (100%)**
3. Motion to elect Kari Lerum as a co-chair for 2020. **Motion passes (100%)**
4. Motion to re-elect Byram Simpson as a co-chair for 2020. **Motion passes (100%)**
5. Elections for other positions will take place after the annual retreat.

Announcements, Reminders, & Roll Call

1. Reminder for new commissioners to set up new email address if possible
2. Chris helping organize LGBT career fairs across the country; contact Chris with interest

3. LGBTQ Mafia event happening again for LGBTQ employee resource groups and philanthropists; contact Chris with interest
4. NAACP King County creating first ever LGBTQ Committee; let Deaunte Damper know if anyone is interested in being involved
5. It Gets Better campaign looking for young activists between ages 14-24 to be part of a video; contact John with interest
6. VietQ coalition putting on the first Vietnamese LGBTQ conference called Ban on February 29 at Asian Counseling & Referral Services from 9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.; Victor Loo to send out information
7. GSBA holding a roundtable about LGBTQ bills on January 21 from 6 – 7 p.m.
8. GSBA Meet Your Commissioners event is on January 22; Chris to speak
9. Annabelle engaging with Gender Justice League on digital identity protection – contact Annabelle with interest
10. U.S. National Library of Medicine is hosting “Surviving and Thriving: AIDS, Politics, and Culture” from January 13 – February 22, includes a free film screening of *Still Around* on February 20 from 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.; contact
11. Thank you, Jessi Murray, for being an amazing co-chair for the past two years!

(END 7:44)