



City of Seattle

Seattle LGBTQ Commission



Meeting Minutes

June 17, 2021 | 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Commissioners Present: Jessi Murray, Nate Higby, Byram Simpson, Brett Pepowski, Manuel Venegas, Annabelle Backman, Andrew Ashiofu, Latosha Correll, Diondra Braswell, Raja Fouad

Commissioners Absent: Victor Loo, DeAunte Damper, Chris Brown, Steven Pray, Ryan Bush

SOCR Staff: Janet Stafford, Leo Segovia, Caedmon Cahill

Meeting Minutes recorded by: Janet Stafford

Guests: Michael Lawrence, Sonny Nguyen

Welcome and Introductions

Public Open Comment

1. Request to be added on agenda from Sonny Nguyen

Approve May Minutes and June Agenda

1. May 2021 minutes reviewed and approved. **Motion passes.**
2. Approve June agenda with below edits. **Motion passes.**
 - a. Add Sonny Nguyen to discuss Mayoral Pride Vaccine Clinics before LGBTQ+ Refugees

Mayoral Pride Vaccine Clinic

1. Sonny: The Mayor's office (MO) will be holding a series of upcoming Pride vaccine clinics. Can the SLGBTQC co-host with the MO at Queer Bar (on June 22) and help with social media push. The MO will send out marketing materials, goal is to reach 80 people.
2. June 22 at Queer Bar – folks who get vaccinated will get free tacos and drinks
3. Another scheduled event: June 26 at Chop House – hosted by Aleksa Manila
4. Commissioner comments: what type of vaccines will be available, how many and what happens when they run out.
5. Jessi/Nate: Volunteering at other vaccines clinics have been a rewarding and fluffing experience.

6. Brett/Byram: name mismatching on database, can pronouns be addressed beforehand
7. Sonny: Will circle back to request meeting with organizers to meet beforehand on sensitive topic training.
8. Motion to co-sponsor happy hour event on June 22. **Unanimous consent -Motion passes**

LGBTQ+ Refugees

1. Andrew: Recently partook on a 5 hour Zoom meeting regarding 21 people incarcerated in Ghana at a LGBTQ conference. Items shared during this Zoom call included rape stories, cramped cells, female torturing, light switching, PTSD suffering, undisclosed safe houses for the 21 people, seeking asylum here. These voices want to be heard.
 - a. Ask: Collaborate with IORA and will gather 21 people for a Zoom meeting to hear their voices
2. Motion to seek collaborative effort with IORA to create a response statement. **Unanimous consent - Motion passes**

Committee Reports

1. Social Media- Nate: Please share any Pride related content to share
2. POC – Tasha: Committee has yet to meet, update at next month's meeting
3. Commission Operations: Committee maybe did not meet
4. No current ad-hoc work

Working Session – Community Survey

1. Nate: Can the commission invest/devote to a community survey and what type of information do we want to gather (data, topics). Do we want a survey? What is covered in the survey? Who is interested? If so, items to address include compiling an ad-hoc, drafting and working with OCR, financial assistance for better results. The 2010 prior survey skewered white men - would we want to mirror that survey with a current glance at today and specific to healthcare disparities. Who will use this data and how will this data be used in the future (policy – legislation)?
2. Byram: This work could be divided among a cross committee effort, the SWC survey was provided a city budget through Councilmember Morales – legislative contact to oversee work
3. Tasha: Continue this work, holding a community event for feedback on what type of info to have on the survey
4. Diondra: Would like to see this work thru policy change
5. Sonny: Welcomes proposal and could collaborate with a subcommittee to raise to with the Mayor's office
6. Byram: Include healthcare disparities, public health, and homelessness. How can we help move to the next step? If people are worried about recycling work or recreating the wheel, we do not have to go in alone.
7. Brett: Connect with other organizations doing similar survey
8. Nate Recaps: There is interest from the commission - collaborate with others to amplify the work already being done by other community orgs instead of starting something new. Bridge community

work and policy work. Topics of interest include housing disparities, healthcare, judiciary interactions. Will follow up with interested folks on next steps: Latosha, Diondra, Jessi and Byram

Updates on Candidate Forums

1. Jessi: Upcoming 5-commission event consist of city-wide candidate forum to include City Council, Mayoral and City Attorney. Please connect if interested in volunteering.
 - a. July 15, 20, 22, 29

SOCR Report

1. Appointment updates – commissioners presented at council meeting in early June and confirmed this week. This includes 3 reappoints for DeAunte, Byram and Latosha. New Appointments include Raja, Andrew and Diondra.
2. Commission Website updates - update your bio and pics and send to Nona or Janet
3. The City of Seattle placed the development of request for proposal process into the Seattle Office for Civil Rights (SOCR). SOCR will not be distributing the funds for participatory budgeting but will be developing the RFP that will contract the agency to run the participatory budgeting process. For more information: <https://www.seattle.gov/civilrights/participatory-budgeting>

Announcements, Reminders, & Roll Call

1. Happy Pride, Black Pride and Juneteenth (Federal Holiday)
2. Send Pride related events to Nate to post online

(END 8:09 pm)