



Seattle LGBTQ Commission Meeting Minutes

Date and time: Thursday, May 15th, 2025 from 6:30pm-8:30pm

Meeting Location: Online via Zoom and IN-PERSON Meeting City Hall, 600 4th Ave, Seattle WA 98104, Room 370

SOCR Staff:

- **Commissioners:** Ashley Ford, Barry Fuentes, Brett Pepowski, Jason Self, Jeremy Erdman, Kody Allen, Landon Labosky, Scott Beck, Jessa Davis
- **Non-Confirmed Commissioners:** Addie Sison, Scott Humpreheys Commissioners
- **Absent:** Andrew Ashiofu, Christina Pizana, Theresa Smith, Maha Roy, Chris Curia, Amari Leach, Scott Beck
- **Guests:** Hannah Saunders

Minute Taker: Landon

Timekeeper: Kody

Section 1, Introduction

1. Welcome, Introductions, and Appreciations (Jason, 6:30-6:40)
2. Public Open Comment (Kody, 6:40-6:45) a. No public comment
3. Approve April 2025 Minutes (Ashley, 6:45-6:47)
 - *Motion from Jason Self to approve, seconded by Landon Labosky. **The vote passed with unanimous consent.***
4. Approve May Agenda (Ashley, 6:47-6:50)
 - Kody - adding, per SOCR, a request to consult. Listed as Item 5.
 - *Motion from Jason Self to approve, seconded by Jessa Davis. **The vote passed with unanimous consent.***

Section 2, Variable Items

1. Denny Blaine Park Updates & Discussion (Ashley, 6:50-7:10)
 - Barry attended the information session online. Explained that they talked about the overview of the issue and why these things transpired. They talked about how to exercise our rights if things like this happen again. No action items came about from this meeting, just information.
 - Ashley reached out to Friends of Denny Blaine and gave them an opportunity to come to this current commission meeting to chat with the group about any action items we can help with.

- Addie explained the allegations coming from the group suing the city regarding the issues at Denny Blaine Park.
- Jeremy voiced that we as a commission might be able to have some leverage and can be the leader in the discussion on how to move forward in a positive way. How can we frame the solutions to be positive and change the way the park is talked about.
- Brett shared that the Access Improvements and Plan for Denny Blaine Park was awarded \$400K for improvements to the park.
- Jason recommended that we create a small group to discuss further and come up with some action items.
- Reframing Small Group: Jeremy Erdman, Landon Labosky, Scott Humpheys, Jessa Davis

2. Consideration of Commission response to Seattle Pride's uniform policy for 2SLGBTQIA+ SPD officers. (Kody, 7:10-7:15)

- Jessa Davis voiced that the Police Department came to group members and said that they'd like to wear T-shirts from their social justice group - which is different than a full uniformed officer
- Landon Labosky voiced that this is just too close to the Pride event, and we need time to build trust amongst the commission and the officers, but this is a month out and just too quick to decide
- Ashley voiced that the queer community has been historically marginalized specifically by police departments - the first Pride was a protest against the Police, and we haven't gotten there yet with the department in Seattle
- Kody voiced that this will create issues amongst our relationships with Seattle Pride and
 - CM's offices. We should stay neutral
- Brett - strongly opposed to officers marching in full uniform in the parade. We are an advisory commission, so we should reach out to Solomon's office to educate them on the background of the issue
- Jeremy - stay neutral, this is too close of an ask, we need more time to build the trust and relationships between the Queer community and the SPD

3. Write a letter to CM Solomon:

- **Ashley Ford - Motion to send CM Solomon a letter in response to his request to consider SPD's request to be fully uniformed in the Pride Parade and to explain historical harms to the Queer Community from Policing and to deny the request to speak with Seattle Pride.**

- ii. Jessa Davis - seconded iii. Yay - Ashley Ford, Barry Fuentes, Brett Pepowski, Jessa Davis iv. Nay - v. Abstain - Landon Labosky, Kody Allen, Jeremy Erdman, Jason Self 3. Reappointment of Jessa Davis & Jeremy Erdman (Jason, 7:15-7:20)
- Jason - asked if there's opposition to the reappointment of Jessa and Jeremy to the Commission. Jason moved to reappoint Jessa and Jeremy to the Commission with Barry seconding. **The vote passed with unanimous consent.**

4. Work Plan Revisit (Ashley, 7:20-7:35)

- Item tabled until June meeting

5. OCR Consultant Opportunity (Kody, 7:40pm)

- Each OCR Commission sends someone to be a panel consultant for OCR in regard to domestic violence response. OCR is bringing together quite a few organizations to give their voice in this space, and we are to send a commissioner to represent the LGBTQ+ Commission.
- Jessa Davis will be the representative.

6. Pride Updates (Kody, 7:45-8:00)

a. Flag Raising

- Everything is finalized and just finishing up the speeches. Invite all the friends

b. Pride Parade

- Ashley, Jason, Kody, Barry, Addie, Landon, Jessa

c. Trans Pride

- Brett, Ashley, Jason, Addie, OCR Staff, other commission members

7. FIFA Update (Chris & Landon, 8:00-8:05)

- Landon gave an update and indicated that Chris has contact info to connect with FIFA organizers.

Section 3, Reports

1. Committee Work Report Outs (8:05-8:15)

Community Outreach and Social Media (Jeremy) - Meets the second Wednesday, 6-7pm

- Jeremy will be stepping down as the Chair of the community engagement committee at the next meeting.

Commission Operations (Barry Fuentes) - Meets first Wednesday, 6-7pm

- Met with Jason and Janet. The meeting with Jason was talking about the bylaw review and will schedule a meeting. Meeting with Janet to talk about the recent nominees to the commission - we still have two vacancies.

*Racial Justice and Intersectionality (Christina Pizana and Brett Pepowski) -
Meets the first Monday 5-6pm*

- Brett and Christina met and talked about changing the meeting time. They might switch to 2nd Wednesday's but unsure yet - email to follow. Currently two are on the committee and they'd like more. Engaging with community members and finding areas for partnership with them.
- Committee leads/chairs gave overviews on all the committees to new members

2. SOCR report - (Janet, 8:15-8:20)

Updates on appointments

- We have two vacancies but have 2/3 people that have applied to be on the commission.

3. Co-Chair Updates (8:20-8:25) a. 5-Chair Meeting Report

- Talked about FIFA
- Talked with the Women's commission to come to the Beacon Festival to table.
- June 14th. Pride themed and Rainbow City Band will be performing
- Compensation for commission from multi-commission chairs - partnering to advance the need forward
- Renters Commission brought up the City Council's rollback of Ethics rules and highlighted the meeting next week
- Structural changes - adjustments to the SMC - do we want any as a commission? Renaming the LGBTQ Commission to be the 2SLGBTQIA+ Commission is an idea. Getting a budget increase and moving it from below SOCR to its own budget line
- Bylaws say we're limited to 3 terms, but the SMC might give us unlimited terms. We want to discuss term limits at a later date.

4. Meeting with CM Solomon

- Ashley - request for input on potential changes to renters' rules. Impacts to queer/historically disenfranchised communities were discussed. The meeting was pleasant and the commission felt welcome.
- Kody mentioned that it is a stark difference from a year ago when the commission was asking for meetings and being ignored and now we're being approached for meetings with them.

Section 4, Closing

- Announcements, reminders, and appreciations (Kody, 8:25-8:30)