



# City of Seattle

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## Meeting Minutes

Thursday, May 16, 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, Sabel Roizen, Alejandro Castillo, Lindsay Church, Latosha Correll, Michael Garrett, Kari Lerum, Jessi Murray, Wayne Rocque, Katrina Sanford, Byram Simpson, Deepa Sivarajan, Manuel Venegas

**Commissioners Absent:** Lauren Boling, Ely Hernandez, Joseph Suttner

**SOCR Staff:** Erika Pablo

**Meeting Minutes recorded by:** Deepa Sivarajan

**Guests:** Melissa Hall (PFM Roller Derby), Amy Davis (PFM Roller Derby), Michelle Messmer (PFM Roller Derby), Terique Scott (Balance Our Tax Code), Gwen Wessels (SOCR)

### Welcome and Introductions

#### Public Open Comment

1. No public comment

#### Approve February Minutes and March Agenda

1. Defer approval of April minutes to next month
2. Motion to approve May agenda with below edits. **Motion passes (100%)**
  - a. Amend PFM Roller Derby Letter agenda item to just Jessi instead of Jessi and Chris

#### Balance Our Tax Code

1. Update from Terique Scott, Outreach Director for Balance Our Tax Code, working to make Washington's regressive tax code more equitable
2. Affects people with low-incomes, communities of color, immigrants, refugees, and LGBTQ people
3. Have introduced a Capital Gains Tax to tax wealthiest 1% on stocks and bonds

- a. For an individual filer, taxed at 9.9% on the profits of selling stocks and bonds if those sell at over \$100,000; for joint filers, threshold is \$200,000
- 4. Capital Gains Tax did not pass in state legislature despite being introduced into both houses, but had a lot of support and will try to pass again in next session
  - a. If doesn't pass next session, will try to get on the ballot in 2020
- 5. Capital Gains Tax would then fund a Working Families Tax Rebate (WFTR) – kind of like Washington's version of an Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)
  - a. Particularly helps kids, especially kids of color, to do better in school
- 6. Expect that in the first few years, Capital Gains Tax would generate \$700-800 million
- 7. Current ask is for us to support individually, perhaps to testify in Olympia or call legislators – long-term, hoping to build a coalition, especially if there is the need
- 8. Would love to come back and discuss more as we continue – creating a new PowerPoint that we could come back and share; can also send it to Commission.
- 9. Questions/comments from commissioners:
  - a. Kari Lerum: Can you explain more about how Capital Gains Tax works? If someone were to sell a house or boat, how would they be taxed?
    - i. Terique Scott: Those things are exempt, as are cattle, other property, etc. The only thing that is affected are stocks or bonds.
  - b. Alejandro Castillo: How far did Capital Gains Tax make it in this legislative session?
    - i. Terique Scott: Made it to committee and last day of session – was voted on. 5 Democrats did not vote for Capital Gains Tax, and we think that's the main reason that doesn't pass.
  - c. Latosha Correll: How are you working with community?
    - i. Terique Scott: Working with Tacoma Urban League, NAACP, starting to work with Washington CAN. Previously this has been more of a lobbying effort; now we're doing more of a public outreach push, especially as we consider a ballot measure.
  - d. Michael Garrett: Suggest that in your presentation you roughly define stocks, bonds, mutual funds since probably most people don't know much about it!
  - e. Jessi Murray: Just want to note that we as a Commission won't be able to endorse a ballot measure.
    - i. Terique Scott: Not asking for endorsement – would love to hear about connections to other organizations or to communities, or for individuals on the Commission who are interested.
    - ii. Erika Pablo: Commission can weigh in on bills too, just not ballot measures.
  - f. Kari Lerum: Suggest talking point around income tax – people who aren't familiar with capital gains tax might like learning that this is another way to achieve some of the goals of a state income tax
  - g. Byram Simpson: Another suggested talking point is explaining/visually displaying what regressive taxes mean – Washington not having an income tax doesn't mean working people's incomes aren't going to taxes (in fact, the opposite)!

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

- 1. Mariko Lockhart confirmed and sworn in as Director of SOCR on Monday, May 13, 2019
- 2. Put in request internally to hire a temporary staff person through December to help staff this commission and the Seattle Commission for People with disAbilities
  - a. That person will help with more administrative work and Erika can provide the policy support
  - b. Hoping to have someone hired by mid-June – potentially by next meeting

3. We've been expressing the importance of resourcing commissions
4. Racial Equity Toolkit for SOCR is due to City Council by end of May
  - a. Some of you have connected with Erin McIntyre about that
  - b. If anyone is still interested in talking with RET team, please let Erika know – short timeline since report due at end of May
5. SOMOS Seattle, headed by former commissioner Ray Corona, having an official 50 Years of Pride event on Thursday, June 6 from 5:30 – 9 PM at Columbia Tower
6. SLI on LGBTQ Homelessness Response – have put together an action plan
  - a. Will be some budgetary asks that may need the Commission's support
    - i. Mayor's Office working on budget now, will go to Council later this summer and then for public open comment
  - b. Currently there are City and County efforts on homelessness, but City has many more people working on it – proposal by Mayor's Office to merge into one regional authority
    - i. County representatives mostly unable to attend the workgroup meetings because there are only about 24 County employees while there were 60-80 City staff
    - ii. Worries that once the merge happens, LGBTQ considerations might fall through cracks
  - c. Dusty Olson will be coming to June Commission meeting to talk more about action plan and next steps
    - i. Want to make sure there is accountability
    - ii. Erika has requested that HSD brief the Commission on a quarterly basis
  - d. Initial next steps are to run this plan by HSD by May 31; due to Council by June 30
  - e. Mark Dones who is consulting with City on this project, heard suggestions to do an RET and he had reached out to SOCR
  - f. Only people in the workgroup who were not cisgender were from Ingersoll, despite fact that SLI focused on trans, nonbinary and gender nonconforming
  - g. Questions/comments from commissioners:
    - i. Kari Lerum: Will this then work to standardize responses to homelessness throughout King County? I work with people experiencing homelessness in Federal Way area and conditions are horrific – word down there is that Seattle is better.
    - ii. Byram Simpson: Can we still contribute comments to this draft action plan?
      1. Erika Pablo: Yes, this is the version that will be sent to HSD leadership but plan not due to Council until June 30.
    - iii. Byram Simpson: Was anyone who has experienced shelter system been involved in this?
      1. Erika Pablo: Ingersoll's report included focus groups and story-collecting, but not enough engagement was done.

### **Pride Planning and Budget**

1. Flag Raising is on May 31
  - a. Sabel created an awesome flier!
  - b. Please share on social media – there's a Facebook event
  - c. First planning meeting is next Wednesday, May 22 – if you're interested in being on planning committee and aren't already, let Erika know
2. MO is offering \$300 for event, so we need to decide how much budget we need to use
  - a. MO has connection for DJ, letting us use their sound system, plus the \$300 will probably cover food and one community stipend for a performer
  - b. Another \$100 - \$200 would be helpful if want more speakers and performers
    - i. Last year we only used the \$300 from the MO, didn't allocate other money
3. Questions/comments from commissioners:

- a. Jessi Murray: Suggest having someone from Aging With Pride to talk
- b. Sabel Roizen: Can we offer tables for community groups that want to share info?
  - i. Erika Pablo: Great idea, but we're a little limited on time. If you have ideas right now on organizations, you could invite them now. SOCR Comms person will
- 4. Budget ask of \$700 to spend on:
  - a. Stickers for a commemorative flag raising sticker, but could potentially use again for other Pride events
  - b. Tabling at Trans Pride
- 5. Motion to allocate up to \$700 for Pride activities and flag raising. **Motion passes (12 in favor, 1 abstention)**

#### **PFM Roller Derby Letter**

- 1. Chris has sent out a draft letter of support for Council to install lines for roller derby in community centers that
- 2. Only one taped track in the city of Seattle is PFM Roller Derby – all other teams are practicing but are not playing the game
  - a. Seattle Parks & Recreation now deciding that taped lines are not allowed, so the only track would be gone
- 3. Received a grant to start PFM Juniors, but can't do it without a track and trying to create them
- 4. League is currently 40% LGBTQ members; policy is to include women and people who are more women-aligned, and some all-gender teams
- 5. Letter of support to be paired with budget request to the Budget Oversight Committee to add a budget line item for painted track lines for roller derby
  - a. PFM would be willing to fund, but just need the approval for the lines
- 6. Motion to send a letter of support and budget request that PFM Roller Derby has requested. **Motion passes (11 in favor, 1 opposed, 1 abstention)**
  - a. Jessi and Katrina to help Chris with edits

#### **City Council Hate Crime Legislation and Letter in Opposition**

- 1. Councilmember Lisa Herbold's office has been pushing hate crime legislation for misdemeanors but there has been pushback from community to say that legislation doesn't do much and may harm communities of color
  - a. Letter from King County Department of Public Defense expressing opposition due to the impacts to marginalized communities
- 2. Black people are only 8% of population in Seattle, but make up 20% who are referred to prosecutors for hate crime charges
- 3. Jessi and Alejandro had attended a meeting to give feedback; CM Herbold's office made some changes to language around restorative justice, but still proceed with the legislation
- 4. CM Herbold's office asked for an audit on impacts to communities of color; audit did find disproportionality in impacts but did not explicitly recommend expanding definition of hate crimes
- 5. SOCR also has concerns and asked for a pause and for an RET to be done
- 6. Currently has been passed out of committee and scheduled to be voted on next Monday, May 20
  - a. If there is a lot of community concern, may put a pause on voting
- 7. This is revamping of old legislative agendas and priorities from 2008 spearheaded by councilmembers Rasmussen and Licata; CM Herbold was formerly aide to CM Licata

8. Mayor's Office has been meeting with East African and Muslim communities who have been encouraging this kind of work
9. Co-chairs were only made aware of this last week, and has been moving fast
10. Questions/comments from commissioners:
  - a. Byram Simpson: It's entirely inappropriate to give SPD this power when they are under a consent decree
  - b. Kari Lerum: Push forward restorative justice piece again as a replacement for this rather than an addition – use the budget number associated with this legislation for community grants
11. Motion to write a letter in opposition to hate crimes legislation and suggest other ways of moving forward to address hate crimes.
  - a. Amendment: Motion to write a letter and testify at City Council in opposition to hate crimes legislation and suggest other ways of moving forward to address hate crimes. **Motion passes (100%)**

### **Committee Reports and Finalize Workplan**

1. Communications:
  - a. Set up interview with Seattle Counseling Services next week to film
  - b. Brainstorming social content for Pride month – send ideas to committee
  - c. Looking at doing posts on historical LGBTQ leaders – also send ideas to committee
2. Commission Operations:
  - a. Putting together an onboarding document specific to new or potential LGBTQ commissioners
    - i. Work with SOCR around their update to the official handbook for commissioners – being updated for first time since 2012, Mariko reviewing by end of June
  - b. Suggestion for a recruitment event in July – work with Community Outreach & Engagement committee to make it a general outreach opportunity as well
3. Community Outreach & Engagement: will help identify locations for quarterly public meetings in the community
4. Committees need to meet to update workplan again – make goals more specific to make sure we're getting credit for the work we're doing!
  - a. Potential to add our overall Commission goals to the overall Commission line goals

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

1. Lindsay Church's last Commission meeting – thank you, Lindsay!
2. Roll call: Manuel will need to call in
3. Erika will communicate with people over email about Pride

**(END 8:34)**