**COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT COMMISSION**

**MINUTES**

September 17, 2018

6pm-8pm

Seattle City Hall, Room 370

**Commissioners present:** Ben Mitchell, Bereket Kiros, Carol Redfield, Felix Chang, Julie Pham, Karyn Kubo Fleming, Leanne Do, Rani Hanstad, Chris Maykut **Commissioners not present:** Alison Turner, Emily Kim, Maria Jose Soerens, Natalie Curtis, Patricia Akiyama, Sonj Basha**,** Thais Marbles  
**Staff present:** Danielle Friedman

**Opening**

Commission members voted to approve the minutes and agenda.

**New CIC members**

**Chris Maykut (District 6 appointee)**Chris Maykut is a native Seattleite born on Capitol Hill and raised in Phinney Ridge.  He holds a BS in Business Administration with an emphasis on Accounting from the University of California at Berkeley.  Chris created and managed the Chaco Canyon Organic Cafes from 2003 to 2017, and currently works as the Business Membership Coordinator for the Phinney Neighborhood Association.   He lives in Phinney Ridge with his wife, Samantha, and two excellent children Raina (12) and Gus (10).

**KARYN KUBO FLEMING (mayoral appointee)**Karyn Kubo Fleming is a dog lover, community volunteer, designer, and Seattle resident of more than 30 years. Karyn and her husband have opened their home to permanent and temporary foster dogs for several organizations, including the Seattle Animal Shelter. Karyn is among a small group of volunteers who have formed a new nonprofit, The Goochy Project. It will provide short-term care for pets of homeless and low-income individuals when their owner is faced with an emergent situation that temporarily prevents them from caring for their animal. Karyn has worked in nonprofit fundraising and public relations; before that she was a journalist for CBC-TV in Toronto, KIRO radio in Seattle, and the International Examiner, a newspaper serving Seattle's Asian American community. A third-generation Japanese American, Karyn's line of handmade greeting cards incorporates Japanese elements such as washi (Japanese paper), origami (paper folding) and mizuhiki (paper cords).

**Leanne (Liên) Do (District 4 appointee)**Leanne (Liên) Do is an educator and activist with a strong commitment to seeing this region grow ever more inclusive. Leanne (Liên) was born in Seattle and raised by her Vietnamese refugee mother, father, and grandmother. Her family members were among the original founders of Seattle’s first Vietnamese Buddhist temple. Her parents worked for decades in the Rainier Valley and Central District - her mother as a lay social worker and her father as a physician and poet. Leanne (Liên) attended the University of Washington and has been employed at the UW School of Social Work since 2008, where she teaches a writing course. Married to her high school sweetheart, Leanne (Liên) is a devoted spouse and parent, a skilled domestic economist, and an inspired maker of home. Her home in the Ravenna neighborhood serves as a sanctuary, a center, and a boarding house for a multi-racial, multi-generational, and multi-class community. Leanne has served on the Seattle Pedestrian Advisory Board and has most recently organized with Social Justice Fund NW, Resource Generation, and Powerful Voices.

**Rani Hanstad (Get Engaged member)**Rani is longtime resident of Seattle and spent four years of her childhood living in India. Her strong passion for racial and gender justice stems from her experience navigating two different cultures. She works as a Program Specialist at Equal Opportunity Schools (EOS), a nonprofit that focuses on educational equity. Before EOS, Rani worked with Rainier Scholars and interned at the National Network for Immigrant and Refugee Rights in Oakland, CA. In 2017, Rani graduated from Santa Clara University with a BA in Communication and Women’s & Gender Studies. After work and on the weekends, she is most likely spending time with family, reading a good book, drinking bubble tea, or dancing to Bollywood music.

**Briefing- Language Access, Maha Jahshan, OIRA**

Maha gave an update on language access in the city. It is the City of Seattle’s mission to be a leader in communicating with community members in a way that works for them. There was an executive order passed that requires all departments to create a language access plan and they need to show that they are creating a budget for language access. Her team has created tools such as a language access toolkit, and an interpreter/translator directory. They also have a term base which is a bank of commonly listed terms that city employees could draw from.

*What has been your experience working with departments? What have you seen?*

The CIC tells people that they need to compensate people. Good you are looking at that. Our workgroup is looking at best practices. We have been looking through the community involvement plans similar to the language access plans. There were some plans that were not as sophisticated. Is there an opportunity to partner together to work with departments around community involvement and language access since they overlap quite a bit? Don’t want to duplicate efforts.

*How is accountability measured?*

How do we insert language access and community involvement into performance measures? This is something that the CIC could look at. This is really about shifting perspectives and culture change within the city.

*How does Seattle public schools fit in to your purview?*

We are happy to share information, but we don’t work with them directly. King County also has all the tools and they are working on creating their own language access program.

If you have stories about how language access has worked in your communities, please share them with Maha.

**Workgroup Report backs**

Workgroups came up with workplans to determine what they will be working on through the end of the year.

*Best Practices workgroup (Felix, Thais, Carol, Patricia, Alison, Bereket, Emily)*

* This workgroup merged with the feedback to departments workgroup this month.
* This group has been doing a lot of research. They are now looking at the community involvement plans and deciding on next steps to give departments feedback and guidance.
* Is hoping to hook up with DON point person and RSJI in October. In November, hoping to get feedback on the proposal. Identify areas in which there can be collaboration. Ideas on partnering: thinking about ways to have accountability, feedback on departmental trainings and how they can be improved; thinking about how RSJI might have engagement with community at large- by offering a training or some other mechanism and collaborate with community to see if this would be helpful for them.

Feedback:

* RSJI has a clearly defined role and giving trainings to the community may be very difficult and outside of their purview.
* How do we measure accountability and outcomes? Are we really making a difference?

*Resources workgroup (Maria-Jose, Ben, Chris, Natalie)*

* Workgroup is focused on the allocation of city resources (grants, trainings, technical assistance, meeting space) in an equitable way.
* Group has been looking for good projects to weigh in on. Two opportunities: 1) Provide feedback on online affordability portal outreach plan; 2) Give feedback on DON community grants programs (Your Voice, Your Choice, Neighborhood Matching Fund, Duwamish River Opportunity Fund).
* The person working on the affordability portal left and know no one owns it at DON.
* There was a racial equity toolkit report done on DON community grants. The workgroup will review the report from 2016 on the grant programs, come up with questions, and connect with the DON grants manager.

Feedback:

* In the CIC ordinance, it calls out that this body needs to review the DON community grant processes. This is required, but also will be very beneficial.
* Once we know what to do, consider sharing information with all city departments. This can be another way to make an impact.
* The Neighborhood Matching Fund Racial Equity Toolkit report will be shared with all.

*Charter workgroup (Sonj, Julie, Karen)*

* Focused on coming up with internal processes. They will be documenting what they have been working on by creating an annual report that shows what the commission has worked on and what the impact was.
* We will resend the updated bylaws for you to send comments before the next meeting.
* Want to have a fun event (maybe story sharing event) oriented towards other commission members and city staff to build bridges.

Feedback:

* An annual report will also be a good opportunity to talk about who the commission is and what they want to do.
* It would be good to share with the Mayor and City Council to show how the first year has gone and to start building relationships. Should request time at a City Council in the beginning of 2019.

**Public Comment**

Donna Hartmann-Miller said she liked the idea of RSJI doing community trainings. She also thinks it is important to review the budget process. If the CNC still existed, this would be the sort of thing they would get behind.