**Seattle Human Rights Commission**

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, July 6, 2017, 6:00–8:00 p.m.

Hing Hay Coworks, 409 Maynard Ave S., Seattle, WA 98104

**Commissioners Present:** Bill Dow, Tammy Morales, Jeremy Wood, Marcel Baugh, Danielle Wallace, Ashley Miller

**Commissioners Present by Phone:** Fekadu Shibeshi

**Commissioners Absent:** Pauline Alverado, Alice Serko, Amy Huang, Lara Diaconu, Fekadu Shibeshi, Sarah Bishop

**SOCR Staff Present:** Marta Idowu, Maria Terra (SHRC extern)

Welcome and Introductions

**Call to Order:** By Jeremy Wood at 6:06pm

**Introduction to Commission and History:** Jeremy explains the history of the commission, our role as advisory board to the Mayor and City Council, appeals role for the City government. Marcel explains that we are welcome and open to community input of all shapes and kinds, and that our goal is to represent the underrepresented.

**2017 Work Plan Review:** Commissioners go through the 2017 work plan, Tammy and Marcel have expressed interest in the School to Confinement Pipeline, Marcel explains, Marcel also explains supporting Seattle Police reform, Jeremy explains our goals regarding immigration justice and confronting xenophobia, Danielle discusses Commission’s role on housing,

**Public Comment:** One person asks whether the Commission does work with indigenous communities. Jeremy explains the role SHRC has had with the Indigenous People’s Day in Seattle, same person asks about affordable housing inclusionary zoning, commissioners explain.

Another person asks whether the shooting of a local Asian-American man around the same time as the Lyles shooting is on our radar. Marcel responds.

Another person is upset about crime in this area, she witnessed a stabbing in June. She says they fear, police ignore the community, they want more patrols in this area. Marcel says that we can help connect people, Tammy says that while we have not stepped in, she understands the frustration. Second speaker says that he has been a part of the community meetings, said he had an issue with police not responding to threats of assault. He believes there is disrespect for the people in the area, no service or integrity like the same others. Another person says they have plans to merge the precinct, the nonprofits even offered them a space and they wouldn’t accept it.

Same guys says there is very little homeless prevention programs, if we can prevent the safety net for people who do have homes but are at risk of losing them before they get that three day notice, that would help the problem. He believes that if we prevent people from getting into homelessness we can lessen the need for rapid rehousing. Bill explains the day-shelter/night-shelter divide, says that we can help advocate for increased funding and shelters.

Another person asks about our role with safe consumption sites. Jeremy explains that it is a fact that safe consumption sites are beneficial to public health. Jeremy explains that the position of the commission is that it is a health issue that we should address without stigmatization.

Faride asks whether there is commission with commissions from other municipalities. Jeremy provides some recent examples.

Another person says that there are some issues with the navigation center overheating.

Another person asks whether our influence varies depending on who is Mayor. Tammy says that she believes we are being paid more attention to recently than in the past, but regardless of how they feel about us we have been told by City Councilmembers is our job is to hold their feet to the fire.

Another person asks who does our social media and website. Maria explains we have one or two people, but it is kind of collective in determining who we should publish.

Another person asks whether we have touched on issues of corporate social responsibility. Jeremy says that we have approached that on an issue-specific level, gives an example of the Sakuma Brothers action and boycotts, also divesting from private prison contractors, companies that are affecting recent immigration ramp-up.

**Approval of Minutes:** Tammy has two edits, both accepted, Marcel moves to approve with changes, Tammy seconds, all approve, no edits.

**SOCR update:** None.

**Action items:**

**Firs Mobile Home (draft letter)**

Maria explains that she has been working with Sarah Bishop, Maria says she has been working with Tenants Union, they told her they have been helping in the negotiations with families and landlord, also says she had conversation with Latino community leader (Flor). Maria asks who we should address it to, been a question.

Jeremy asks whether there has been discussion of addressing the landlord himself, Maria says no. Marcel says there is more work to be done, Tammy suggests talking to Sarah. Public person asks whether it is hosted by Hotel Concepts.

Bill asks what the timeline is on this, Maria says that this goes until the end of October, probably more like the end of April.

Danielle asks what the intent of the letter was in bringing it today, whether it was to take action or give recommendations. Maria says she thinks it is just about a discussion. Jeremy says that it may be helpful to agree upon broad strokes. Bill says that would be premature, says there are serious issues with the letter—who are we sending it to and why. There may be legal issues sending to landlord, and there isn’t much merit in petitioning the SeaTac government.

Bill says we have plenty of time, we can work out the kinks over the next months. Maria says the Tenants Union asked that we go to the Councilmembers, they could help with tenant assistance. Bill says that would be a good hook, but that it needs to be in the letter. Jeremy says that he can take Sarah’s spot, asks that Maria do more work getting information that we need.

**Surveillance Technology and Data Acquisition (draft letter)**

Bill explains the letter, why the aspects are in there.

Jeremy asks about retention oversight. Marcel says that there was concern about not being able to retain a lot of data. Marcel says that they believe that is a barrier to transparency. Bill says that is something that we can add in, takes as friendly.

Tammy says there are issues in the Central District, they are federal, nobody knows what they are, SPD says they cannot disclose. Says when the community discloses.

Danielle says OneAmerica may be good to review the letter. Bill says he will get a hold of Fe Lopez. Danielle says he should get ahold of the Immigrant and Refugee Commission, maybe the five commissions.

Sarah moves to approve pending sending to executive for further edits and feedbacks, Tammy seconds, all approve, none opposed or abstain. Bill and Danielle will follow up, Marcel is interested as well.

**Charleena Lyles Shooting and Police Reform (discussion)**

Marcel explains, he says that we should similarly write another letter regarding Tommy Le.

Tammy says that a comment that was made at a recent hearing about whether there are conversations with other police departments and jurisdictions about how policing outside Seattle is going. Tammy says that this is particularly important for communities of color which are being displaced out of Seattle.

Marcel says the discussion about underlying all of this is training. Jeremy says that there has been a lot of concern about the Islam boy in Snohomish about how the investigation has gone. Says that we should increase visibility.

Faride says that she heard something on NPR about sending mental health experts with police when there are mental health incidents. She says that making sure the City is investing in that will be a good way for the police officers to learn about it and also how they change when they do not go with the provider in small ways. Faride asks what the police can really do right now.

Marcel says that as a public, we do not know what the police’s standard procedures are, and that laymen have no idea what this is supposed to look like. Tammy says one of the other things that was raised is a proposed request from CM Gonzalez to expedite Judge Robart’s approval of the police reforms. There is concern that they are stuck in a gray area. Tammy says this is something that we can help follow up on and push for. Tammy says she is a part of a community group that is talking about more drastic plans, wants to tell them that we won’t wait anymore.

Tammy asks the public about API community groups we could talk to, he mentions a few including CFA and Friends of Little Saigon. Community member says that the family doesn’t want the spotlight.

Ashley wonders if we can be powerful in putting all the letters that we have sent regarding police oversight, putting it in a package that we send the press about this, emphasizing that this is the same thing over and over again. Ashley says that she is going to take a look at the letter, and Jeremy says that he can take the lead on drafting a letter. Community member says that this may be an issue of displacement, if the officer was properly trained it could have been fixed.

Tammy says that the City Council has sent a list of questions to SPD about training, procedure, specifics on the incident. Tammy says that we can push the SPD/City to make sure those questions are answered publicly.

**Youth Detention Center (draft letter)**

Tammy says that a few years ago the SHRC worked with EPIC on this, but that we have been less engaged of late. She says now is a good time, their priority is messaging that “there is no right way to do the wrong thing,” particularly given the local municipalities’ goals re: zero youth detention.

Tammy explains that the letter is asking for five or six things we wanted, but it has since been reduced. Tammy now wonders if it makes sense to send to Dow and Ed rather than the Dept of Juvenile Detention head and the permitting heads.

Tammy says that if the County is saying that this is going to be used as a therapeutic space, she wants the research about what that means. Tammy says that one of the concerns that has come up is who will actually go through all the information, which we don’t have an answer for, but that the EPIC community members may be interested in helping. Tammy says that there is some concern about what they produce.

Danielle asks whether there were ideas from EPIC about how to catalogue this information and then release/distribute.

Bill explains his concerns, says that he wants to get rid of the “detention operator” clause because there is no private operator. Jeremy suggests that we may want to look at getting their operational rules, Bill agrees. Marcel suggests putting this in the first clause.

Bill also suggests that we narrow our request because the more we ask voluntarily, the less that we should get. Suggests that we make a public records request for #3 rather than ask for it in addition. Tammy says that she will take the lead on this as well as a public records request.

Jeremy motions to approve with edits and subject to final review, also suggests that Tammy and the Commission make a formal public records request, Ashley seconds, all approve other than Danielle who abstains, no edits.

**Executive Team Update**

Tammy will reach out to Juarez, Bill will contact Harrell, Marcel and Jeremy will reach out to Burgess.

Johnson says he wants to forge a compromise, so he is out.

Bill will share the letter with Yasmin,

Ashley explains that we have lost some Commissioners recently.

Tammy says that Monday is the final vote on Income Tax, Tammy will try to be there, Maria will also speak in favor of the commissions.

Marta says that she will get copies of the Get Engaged applicants, Amy was going to get DON lists. Danielle and Ashley will have a meeting about this with Amy.

**Bill motions to adjourn at 8:07pm, Tammy seconds.**