



City of Seattle

Jenny Durkan, Mayor

Seattle Women's Commission

MINUTES

Seattle Women's Commission
Boards and Commissions Conference Room L280
600 Fourth Avenue, City Hall
Monday, December 18, 2017

Commissioners Present: Xochitl Maykovich, Tara Cookson, Idabelle Fosse, Priya Saxena, Morgan Beach, Tana Yasu, Min Pease, Jamilah Williams, Zoe True, Darya Farivar, Teresa Springer, Tracey Whitten, Rhonda Carter, Keisha Jackson

Commissioners Calling In:

Commissioners Absent / Excused / Leave: Ruchika Tulshyan, Erica Soelling, Vivian Lee, Nicole Negron

Start Time: 5:40 PM

Announcements

- (Morgan) We will have food at the rest of our meetings. Volunteers can get a gift card (from SWC) of \$25 to buy food for meetings
 - January Meeting: Zoe is in charge of snacks

Public Comment

- Sean Bickley, member of Commission for People with DisAbilities
- USA has a long history with illegal / involuntary sterilization
 - Most often it is a hysterectomy
- Courts want to introduce a form that would make getting a court order easier for parents who wish to have their children sterilized
 - Introducing a form that will make it easier to sterilize people will not address the issue at hand—that illegal / nonconsensual sterilizing is unethical
- Handout: Call for Input: Sterilization Order
- Ashley X—born with Cerebral Palsy—parents had a surgery to remove her breasts, uterus, and a surgery to ensure she will not grow beyond the size of an 8-year-old

- Seattle Children's has an extensive review process because of previous history with sterilization
- Asks:
 - Write a letter by January 21 addressing this sterilization
 - Volunteer to determine what other hospitals or doctors are implementing illegal / involuntary sterilizations
 - What actions can we take that are proactive?
 - Need more data
- Question and Answer
 - What type of person gets sterilized?
 - Anecdotally, CA sterilizing women in prisons until 2010, other states mandating sterilization for those with mental / behavioral health disabilities
 - Geographic area for this issue?
 - Washington State
- Community Health and Wellness Subcommittee will follow up with Sean, conduct research, follow up regarding a letter, and report back during the January Meeting

Approval of minutes

- (Morgan) We did not have a November meeting because we had our retreat, therefore there are no minutes to approve.

2018 Work Plan Approval

All

Working Through First Page

- Change three policy issues to active statements
 - Increasing access to affordable child care in Seattle
 - Shedding light on gender based violence / harassment
 - Insuring housing stability

Community Health and Wellness

- Listening: Outreach and listening campaign to understand health issues women experiencing homelessness are facing
- Learning: Hosting a panel of relevant experts to better inform stakeholders about possible improvements in women's health
- Sharing: Share findings from listening and learning activities with the public

Economic and Educational Opportunities

- Enhancing and furthering access to affordable high-quality child care for families

- Economic and educational opportunities for women and girls of color
 - Do we change this to marginalized women and girls instead of just girls of color?
 - (Tracy) Last year's goal was specific to women of color
 - (Xochitl) Women with disabilities also face marginalization, what does the committee feel?
 - (Rhonda) Women of color is expansive because it doesn't exclude those who are also disabled, homeless, etc. When you step back from a statement about supporting women of color it's very glaring.
 - (Tana) Marginalized also means women coming out of prison who are having a hard time, regardless of color
 - (Teresa) If we open this up it will help guide our work, this is just for 2018. If there have not been outcomes about this then we should keep it as is.
 - (Morgan) We also say that we will be responsive to city needs, so our work can change based on the work and issues that come up.
 - (Michele) This is also under the RSJI toolkit—if women and girls of color have less access to these opportunities—the data shows that.

Equitable Development

- Do we use sweeps or do we use homeless encampment removal?
- (Brenda) Does SWC have an official position?
- (Priya) Can we use the official term and then in parentheses say "sweeps"
- (Rhonda) Is there a way to draw out what about the sweeps we find are unjust?
- Discussion about specifying age and disability in our focus for equitable transit
- (Teresa) There is power in writing down our plan and making that specific

Violence Prevention and Justice

- (Michele) We included promoting healthy and safe spaces and relationships particularly to combat misogyny
- (Priya) And we included "gender nonconforming individuals" because they are a community we cannot ignore
- (Rhonda) Do we want to only say "raise awareness"?

Xochitl moves to vote

Idabelle seconded the vote

No questions / discussion regarding amendments to work plan

100% approval

Sub-Committee Reports Out

Sub-Committee Chairs

Community Health and Wellness (Zoe)

We set up our communication system and canvassing (we set up a Slack and Google Folder) and contacting a few individuals who work in homelessness issues and are following up on those conversations

We have an SWC Google Folder and should move all subcommittee work in there

Equitable Development (Rhonda)

We had a phone call last Monday and discussed:

- A task force on childcare affordability that Herbold's office was working on, we will be working with Loren to hopefully get some time with Herbold's staff to learn what is going on there and getting status on the budget
- We had marked that we want to do an event in March to focus on anti-harassment—the notion being that it would be a panel or gathering that would be educational and story-sharing. We will work on a budget in January
- In the first quarter of next year we want to build relationships with community partners working on affordable child care. We want to make sure we are listening to the public.
- Plan a meeting early next spring with the Department of Education and Early Learning to learn about the current child care assistance program (vouchers, what is the utilization, what are the criteria, budget, etc.) --- more fact-finding

Equitable Development

- Working on developing a survey for this report on impact of evictions
- Want to get that rolled out in early January
- Council has a consulting budget and we are looking for a small amount of money to pay someone to do data analysis
- (Rhonda) Transit Oriented Development—conversation is very lively right now

Violence Prevention and Justice (Priya)

- Google and meeting set up
- Talked briefly about forced sterilization
- Will follow up with LGBTQ Commission

SCL Letter Updates

M. Beach & P. Saxena

- (Morgan) We looked into the matters sent to us and possible solutions with the Head of HR (Central HR)
- HR followed up with every complaint and followed their own policies appropriately
- However, there is a gap of what meets the legal threshold and what people experience—people don't make complaints, they don't know what resources are available, or they remove themselves from the situation before going to HR
- The letter will go the Mayor, HR, City Council, on our website, and the public, and potentially an Op-Ed
- We will be meeting with the Mayor's office Tuesday 12/19 to give them a short amount of time to determine their response and then we will release the letter

SOCR Update

B. Anibarro

- (Brenda) Patty resigned and she will send a letter to commissions
- Mariko Lockhart will become interim and starts Jan 3
- We met with the Deputy Mayor last week and it was really positive
- We are hiring an enforcement supervisor
- Connecting our policy and our RSJI work in a more intentional way to push citywide policies

Next Meeting for January and February will be pushed back one week to January 22 and February 26.