



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,**
June 18, 2018, 5:30 –7:30 p.m.

Commissioners Present: Tara Cookson; Rhonda Carter; Tana Yasu; Priya Saxena; Morgan Beach; Darya Farivar; Min Pease; Zoe True; Teresa Springer; Angela Rae; Nicole Negrón; Idabelle Fosse, Xochitl Maykovich; Vivian Lee; Erica Soelling

Commissioners Calling In: Michele Frix; Ruchika Tulshyan

Commissioners Absent/Excused/Leave: Jamilah Williams,

Visitors: Mάma Sola (Rosemary and Sonia); Morgan Sullivan; Kyra Laughlin; Sandra Tasic

Start time: 5:40

Announcements:

Michele: Ruchika and Michele contacted by Consular General of Japan after recent op-ed to update on consular initiatives regarding provision of non-profit legal services for (primarily female) spouses in divorce. Ruchika and Michele would like to bring in the attorney to update the commission.

Min: Pride parade this weekend, Min will be at the Commission booth on Saturday (Trans parade), and the City invites marchers for the Pride parade on Sunday.

Public Comment: N/A

Approval of minutes: 100% approval with no amendments

Dress for Success

J. Williams

- Lisa from Dress for Success is not present.

Sexual Assault and Violence Education (S.A.V.E.) UW Bothell (Kyra Laughlin)

I. Fosse, All

- Idabelle invited Kyra
- Kyra:
 - Kyra, a UW Bothell student, started the S.A.V.E club, which works on education, advocacy and support services around sexual assault and violence. There are no support services institutionally provided. Following the death of a female student at the hands of her male partner, also a student, Kyra took action to fill this awareness and support gap.
 - Two months ago, Kyra won a grant to host an awareness raising and event, set for October 19th at UW Bothell.
 - Kyra is looking for support in building institutional structures that will continue after she graduates. Kyra is asking the Commission for help, but is open to what that might look like, whether financial resources or otherwise.
- Angela: Has experience in journalism, working on topics of sexual assault, recognizes Kyra's request for help.
- Morgan: What is the difference between UW Seattle and Bothell?
 - SARVA at Seattle, has 2-3 paid student positions in charge of programming etc. Kyra's labour is unpaid.
 - UW has Seattle victim advocates, UW Bothell does not.
- Angela: What about Title 9?
- Tara: What has the process been like asking for help from UW Bothell?
 - Kyra approached them, but they do not respond to her emails, follow-up. Made a pitch to the Chancellor, won an approval on establishment of a committee, but that committee is unfunded.
- Angela: Is there federal funding, given that it is a federally funded institution? Angela is willing to help find it, and to connect with people in Washington DC.
- Morgan: Jaron Goddard is on the Board of Regents, she might be willing to connect with resources. Morgan will connect Kyra and Jaron. We don't have much funding available as a commission, but we can use social media and connect with speakers.
- Rhonda: Kyra should read commissioner bios and reach out to anyone she thinks might be of help.
- Priya: Once advertising materials are available, please send them over.
- Rosemary (Mama Sola): Shared some resources about faith-based organizations that might provide resources.
- Ruchika: Seattle U had an event last week about complicity in covering up abuse, asked whether Kyra has had any student media coverage, if she needs support Ruchika offers it.
- Tana: We've been talking about using social media in our email threads, maybe we should do some work around stigma and the difficulty of speaking publicly about sexual violence and being a victim.
- Vote to endorse the event will take place next month.

Sub-Committee Report-Outs

I. Fosse, All

- Community Health and Wellness
 - Unraveling Homelessness event last Thursday
 - 10 organizations present with clear action items
 - Plans for follow-up with attendees and those who couldn't attend to continue the conversation
 - The event was a lot of planning and executing work. Take away: an event like this cannot be done on the fly.
 - On Safari was amazing!
 - Priya: Do we have an event 'best practices' database? She is willing to put this together this.
 - Xochitl and Vivian can share resources from their organizations

- Economic and educational opportunity
 - Rhonda: YMCA has pulled out of South Seattle right as the summer is beginning. So Rhonda is trying to do some research on this, which has been difficult to connect. Does anyone have connections on this? Seems like there was a situation where *someone* had to receive cuts, and it was the Promise program. Rhonda would like to be able to say 'x' number of children or families are affected, but so far there is no way to say anything with real force due to the lack of data.
 - Rhonda: The sub-committee will need some feedback on what sort of deliverable should happen around Early Childhood, as it is in its last year as a commission priority. Today City Council adopted a related levy.
 - Rhonda will send out a list of organizations she would like connections to.
- Equitable Development
 - Xochitl: The sub-committee and Housing Justice Project, led by Xochitl, went through hundreds of 1,176 case files to collect data on evictions of women in the City of Seattle. In 2017, there were 1,200 evictions. There are likely many more evictions that will not be captured because so many of them begin outside of the court system. The data is showing that the court system is an 'eviction mill.' There is also an issue to be raised in terms of cost of and profiting from legal services. The study is looking to be very in-depth and make a real contribution to the research on evictions.
 - Morgan: The LGBT commission has offered to help on data collection.
- Violence Prevention and Justice
 - Priya: The sub-committee is working on setting the stage for the incoming sub-committee to pick up the torch. They are interested in potentially supporting Kyra's S.A.V.E. event.
 - Rhonda: That could be a nice way to bring the Education and Violence Prevention committee efforts together.

Taking action on family separations on US/Mexico border

M. Beach

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- Morgan and Priya: Jaron Goddard is working on an initiative to put together support packages, and there may be other initiatives as well. We are waiting for further clarifications on this.
 - Erica: Can we work on an op-ed from a community health and wellness angle, or perhaps an op-ed written from the perspective of each of the sub-committees?
 - Xochitl: Immigration status is not a protected class in the City, and this should be a pressure point. Erica seconds this.
 - Priya: Agrees to publish an op-ed.
 - Morgan: We can upload approved documents on the website, or perhaps Crosscut, Seattle Met, King 5
 - Rosemary (Mama Sola): What about radio?
 - Angela, Ruchika happy to make radio connections.
 - Morgan: OCR connection can help prep for radio.
 - Vivian: What about a series of brief 'actions'?
 - Rhonda: We should also consider placement.
 - Tana: This is domestic terrorism, and we should call it as it is. Can we raise money for this cause?
 - Morgan: We are not a non-profit, so we cannot raise money. We are also a politically neutral organization, so we cannot endorse organizations. Better to share for instance a Seattle Times article that points to organizations worthy of support.

- Zoe urges timeliness and a sense of urgency – 2-week timeframe max.
 - Erica will be team lead on the op-ed
 - Erica moves that we write a series of op-eds. Priya seconds. Vote approved.
- Xochitl: It is easy for our elected officials to jump on the bandwagon of putting this issue on the Trump administration, but it is important to pressure our elected officials to *take action* at the local level.
- Min: Has the Refugee and Immigrant Commission had anything to say?
- Angela: We need to do something as a Women’s Commission. Not sure what, but something! To use and show our power. Offered to draw on contacts in the national media to draw attention to SWC action.
- Michele: IS currently in Guatemala, doing research with Seattle U and local women’s organizations around gender-based violence and motivations to migrate North. Offered to contribute data and make connections with research team.
- Rosemary: Mama Sola is also helping single mothers in this situation. So please if the SWC has connections, please share these, and they will help as well.
- Kyra: What about creating a logo or some signal that undocumented people can identify it as a safe space? (Similar to the LGBTQ sticker).
- Sandra Tasic: Urges the SWC to take action.

Co-Chair Elections

M. Beach

- There are four co-chairs nominated: Idabelle (2nd term); Ruchika (1st term); Priya (1st term); Xochitl (1st term). All were successfully elected.
- Secret ballot; simple majority needed because there are 17 commissioners present today.
- Morgan: Over six years, there are several accomplishments she is proud of:
 - Paid sick and safe time ordinance;
 - Published food access report still used in the City
 - Social media pages
 - Served on committee for all-gender bathroom committee
 - Made sure all rape kits are tested, backlog will end this year
 - Expanded size of all civil rights committees
 - Made sure pay equity and paid family leave was guaranteed for City employees, and that paid family leave went state-wide
- Teresa: From a personal perspective, the commission is a place for women to support one another, and to communicate, to embrace diversity of one another’s communication and leadership styles.
- Michele: Thanks, and encouragement in future work.

New Commissioner Interviews/Appointments Discussion

M. Lockhart, All

- There is no information available at present
- Morgan: There are vacancies coming up. The co-chairs will send info on new members joining.
- Angela: Where is the welcome to the committee?
 - Morgan: There isn’t one.

SOCR Update

M. Lockhart

- This commission serves as an example in the City, the work is noticed and appreciated.
- Anti-harassment team is working on a report to present to the Mayor. They are currently analyzing and incorporating survey and focus group data. Data shows a true need for revamping the system to deal with gender and racial-based harassment. Will keep the commission posted.
- Rhonda: We had discussed having someone come from the Mayor's office to speak about the Head Tax. Is the request still live?
 - Mariko: Yes, still live, no response yet.

7:30 PM

Adjourn