



Seattle Women's Commission

MINUTES
Seattle Women's Commission
Monday, August 17, 2020, 5:30 –7:30 p.m.

Commissioners Present/Phone:

Tana Yasu, Jamilah Williams, Zoe True, Darya Farivar, Whitney Nakamura, Rebecca Bryant, Sophia Lee, Marcia Wright-Soika, Rhonda Carter, Diya Khanna, and Min Pease

Commissioners Absent/Leave/Excused/on the phone: Adrianna Lasso-Harrier, Idabelle Fosse Abriel Johnny, Harmony Eichsteadt, Jennifer Gordon

SOCR Staff: Marta Idowu

Guests Sign-In: No guests

Welcome

meeting is called to order and Commissioners introduce themselves

Public comment

No public comment

Announcements

Darya announces that she is putting on a virtual candidate's forum

Approval of Minutes

All Minutes tabled to September's meeting

Update on SPD Budget Engagement Session with the Mayor's staff and SPD

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An equal opportunity - affirmative action employer. Accommodations for people with disabilities provided upon request.

- Sophia gives a general update on the SPD budget. Below are the items discussed:
 - Budget Process (PowerPoint presentation)
 - Covid-19 changes: changes due to Covid-19 as well as SPD budget changes
 - 2020 revenue shortfalls in all areas except property taxes
 - \$125,000 short fall
 - Explains how the budget is allocated
 - Large cuts illuminating hiring, reduction in overtime, training infrastructure and IT
- Plan for 2020
 - 18% budget reduction
 - Mayor's does not
 - want to commit to a 50% reduction goal because she feels that it is not attainable.
 - Commissioners agree that they need to keep pushing for that goal of 50% and re-allocate funds to the community.
- Discussion about SPD Horses
 - Horses will be cut from the budget and part of the 2021 18% reduction
 - No reduction in the size of police officers. Another item to push back on.
- Discussion about Chief Carmen Best leaving and Chief Diaz will take her place and may be in the position for a while
- Community participatory process
 - Learn as much as we can about the process
 - Mayor's Office staff did ask for our feedback
 - Should feel free to voice concerns of the community
 - Mayor's Office trying to be accountable to the community
 - Mayor's Office welcomes feedback from the community
- Process
 - Nice to have the opportunity to ask questions
 - What does everyone think the next steps are?
 - Did not really hear much on that
- Commissioners discuss process
 - Like to see a focus on transgender issues
 - In support of women staying at the forefront and centering on women
 - A list of Commissioners from last month's meeting is reviewed and several Commissioners agree to be a part of preparing a letter in response to the SPD budget and send it to the Mayor's Office. It was emphasized to get it to them sooner than later
 - Motion is made to establish an ad hoc committee, to write and submit budget and policy changes to the 2021 budget. Motion is seconded. Motion passes unanimously.
- Resetting Commission priorities and work
 - Commissioners go around and share their ideas of resetting their work and how it can be changed to meet the needs/capacity of their work given the times we are living in right now. Below are their thoughts:

- Resetting Commission work.
- Drop off in participation
- Many are not engaged
- This is a critical moment and we want to make sure the Commission is strong like it was
- There are things we cannot control
- There is frustration with the appointments and reappointments
- There is still time to do good work
- Mission statement and resources discussion
 - Discussion about our mission
 - Resources discussion
 - What is our mission?
 - Look at work plans and what we can do
 - Focus in on capacity in the interim and how we will keep the work going
 - What is important?
 - Our world has changed
 - We need to talk about our collective power
- Discussion about our collective power. Following thoughts:
 - Shifting the op ed and focus in on community
 - What do we want to work on?
 - Focus in on two priorities
 - Commissioners share about how engaged they are with the Commission a what an honor of working with such amazing women.
 - Eviction report process was an amazing experience. Working with the community and uplifting their work because we have access to city government and the community does not.
 - Latch on to organizations to do the type of work the highlights them.
- A question is asked: What are you looking to accomplish? What is making this worth your time?
- It is noted that a survey will be sent out asking what can you accomplish and what can we do and how much time is needed to accomplish it?
- It is noted that we may need to make some updates to the bylaws
- It was shared that there are positive feelings about this Commission which is important.
- Enjoy working on projects and women on the Commission and have learned so much from everyone.
- Address issues and have them addressed.
- We need to address who has power and with the power we have, we have direct access to government that the community does not have. We should be that access for the community.
- We should be the voice to those who cannot be in government
- Get involved and be impactful
- Was energized with the eviction report that made a difference to people in Seattle and delighted to work with Commissioners on that project.
- The Commission has a wealth of perspectives of the work and very comprehensive voice from a diverse group of people.
- Another question was asked “Why do you do this work?”

- Our purpose has changed and see a lot of shifts and changes around capacity and what we can do. The Commission needs to stay centered, considering how Covid-19 is playing out.
- Enjoy learning from everyone
- Worked for someone for 10 years in government and made a change to do activism work and to give back to the community.
- Love Seattle and the community despite its flaws
- Want to make a positive impact and the Commission has been an amazing opportunity and I push for positive change as the Commission has strong political power and it amazing to be part of it.
- Feel accountable to the community
- Draw attention to issues and the opportunity to connect voices to the issues and things that are important to me and my community.
- What is it like to be engaged?
- Focus on barriers and why we cannot do X, Y and Z?
- Represent the people who are relying on us
- Relational aspect presents a great opportunity
- Whatever you have to give is enough
- Deal with people where they are
- Theory is to weave all this information together and capture it in a survey.
- Review bylaws and membership

Subcommittee Reports: No Reports

Community Health and Wellness – Zoe

Economic and Educational Opportunities – Rebecca

Equitable Development – Marcia

Violence Prevention and Justice – Tana

SOCR Report –Marta

- Preparing paperwork for re-appointments – need updated resumes for all re-appointments
- Get Engaged Interviews this week
- Adrianna Lasso, current Get Engaged Commissioner has agreed to stay on pending confirmation of the new of the new Get Engaged Commissioner
- Upcoming Ethics training is being planned for all Commissioners

Adjourned