August 20th, 2020 Seattle Disability Commission Also known as;

Commission for People with DisAbilities

Meeting Notes

08/20/20 4:00pm - 6:00pm

Zoom Conference Call

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85790753511?pwd=cTBkZWRxc3N0TlZZbVd1aUx4 SDFYUT09&from=msft

Meeting ID: 857 9075 3511

Code: 204289

Commissioner Call-in Line: 253.215.8782

Find your local number: https://us02web.zoom.us/u/keCpgNP9wl

Commission Members Present:

- Via Zoom: Kristina Sawyckyj, Hannah Wilson, Anquida Adams, Kaitlin Skilton (pending commissioner),
- Unexcused Absence: Khazm Kogita, ChrisTiana ObeySummer, Jessica Williams-Hall, Jayson Morris.
- Excused Absence: Eric Scheir

<u>Guests</u>: Helen Gebreamlak (SOCR Policy Strategic Advisor), Marci Carpenter (Guest Speaker), Nate Higby (LGBTQ Commissioner), Sung Yang (Pacific Public Affairs) – public comment on electronic kiosk, CJ Glen (Seattle Public Library), Cleo Brooks (Seattle Public Library)

OCR: Janet Stafford

Facilitators: Maralise Hood-Quan, Antasia Williams

Meeting Called to Order at 4:06pm

Meeting Norms

Reviewed.

Announcements & Public Comment

Sung Yang (Pacific Public Affairs) – public comment on electronic kiosk: Consultant on behalf of Downtown Seattle Association – lke's smart city. We have been working on an initiative to deploy interactive electronic kiosks in parts of Downtown. Other associations outside of downtown are considering as well.

- The electronic kiosks are like life size community iPhone displays (four sided). Use interactive apps to obtain information for wayfinding, transportation, ferries, bike share, etc. The kiosks also promote info about local public services health clinics, jobs, shelters, etc. The apps are updated in real time and can communicate in times of emergency and crisis. All of the benefits come at no costs costs are covered by ads that are displayed.
- Kiosks are fully ADA Complient. Can accommodate many different languages. Ike's is currently working with the National Federation of the Blind to ensure they are accessible. They are currently finalizing and testing a Braille plaque which instructs visually impaired users to scan with an NFC tag, with their mobile device to access the kiosk's features via an Indvidual's mobile phone. Kiosks will only be located in areas where the walk way won't be adversely affected. City council still needs to approve.

Sung welcomes input from the commission.

Commissioner - What about speech-to-text access for those of us that are physically disabled? Like Siri on the telephone.

Response - My understanding is they are experimenting in Baltimore, utilizing a number you can call for info. There's a person that's there 24/7 that will communicate whatever information.

CJ Glen, Seattle Public Library - I have no specific comment other than to maybe provide some background for anybody who I haven't met yet from the commission or people in attendance. I work in the Library Equal Access Program at the Seattle Public Library which is the program

that oversees the assistive technology and disability services at the library.

- Commissioner: I have had two bump-ins with constituents that use your services to access their email and they have no other access to email because the library is the only place they can go to do it with the assistive technology. I know we are still under COVID stuff, but people can't even check-in with family, nor applications for social services, because you have the screen readers and speech-to-text there and they don't have access to it.
- Response: Yeah that has been the most frustrating part of our work since the library's closure, we know there are patrons who are cut off completely from our assistive technology and we have been working hard to come up with solutions but unfortunately, we really are

constrained by the stay-at-home order. I wish I had a concrete timeline about when we could make that assistive technology available again and have patrons in our buildings again because I know on that last day of the library being open, it was really difficult to let our patrons know we wouldn't be coming back for a while.

- Facilitator: Glenn, if the library has all the assistive technology that's useful for people to have access, and the library is not allowed to be open, is there any other commuter kiosk in the city government that is open that your technology could be deployed?
- Response: One of the things that I had considered was the possibility of making our licenses for our JAWS software available and I know that wouldn't help anybody without a device but it would make it available through our website. I have not been able to get a clear

answer to that from our IT department yet. Another thing we have worked on is we heard that FEMA had been providing iPads for emergency management. That included an app that was paid for by FEMA that provided sort of like a video phone, video relay services for deaf patrons. We are trying to think of ways that we might utilize those.

From Cleo Brooks, Seattle Public Library - Staff can contact C.J. and Cleo who need assistance with their emails if it would be accessible to access for them.

Approval of the Minutes

No vote, lacked quorum.

Guest Speaker: Helen Gebreamlak, SOCR Policy Strategic Advisor – Name Change update and Policy work (presentation) 10 min

OCR has three divisions – Enforcement, Race and Social justice, and Policy. Within the policy division there are different projects and Helen specifically work on criminal legal system work, which includes the City's zero youth detention work as well as other efforts for criminal legal system reform and replacement. The work looks at things like how to decriminalize poverty and seriously interrogating our City's use of its criminal legal system.

Name Change – I have finished drafting that legislation and it's been sent over to the Law Department for their review. [see] also sent a copy to the co-chairs Eric and ChrisTiana just to make sure that it accurately captured what you all had talked about around the reasons for the name change.

- The way this will work is our Law Department will review it, then it will go through our internal channels in the executive branch, and up through the Mayor's Office, and then gets transmitted over to Seattle City Council for their vote. There have been some complications in that area because the legislation and policy work that's being prioritized by the City as a result of the governor's emergency order is about COVID-specific COVID-related legislation.
- The name change probably won't happen as fast as it may have been able to happen in other times, but hopefully we can get it done before the end of the year as you all indicated that you want.
- In closing Helen reiterated that she wants to foster an open dialogue with the commission about how the body sees disability rights and

disability justice as a part of the work that the city is doing around the criminal legal system.

Guest Speaker: Marci Carpenter – Disability Awareness Month (presentation and discussion) 15 min

I am the president of the National Federation of the Blind of Washington.

• As a side note, I'm always pleased when people who are consulting about things like smart cities say they are collaborating with our national organization, because that means that things will be centered around the needs of blind people, which is my disability. I hope the consultants will also work with all of you to make sure that those kiosks are accessible to everyone.

I serve on what's called the ADA Community Workgroup. C.J. and Cleo from the library and also Holly Delcambre and Autumn Harris from the ADA compliance office with the City sort of convened this group a few years ago. Membership is not appointed. There's no application process. It's simply people who want to be involved in giving the City feedback on accessibility issues. Sometimes Holly will come to us with issues or programs and seek our input and then we also discuss issues in the community. We are a group made up of people with many different disabilities and with many other intersectionalities.

• Previous robust plans for celebrating ADA 30 in July have been cancelled due to COVID so we pivoted and there's a smaller group of us who are now meeting by phone about once a month and we're talking about doing something in October for Disability Employment Awareness Month, which is also Meet the Blind Month. October

15th is White Cane Awareness Day. We want to plan some events, again, for the Seattle Channel. We had hoped we might be able to be back in the library by October, but that's not going to happen.

We have a few things that we're thinking about right now and I will tell you some of those however I also want to hear from commissioners about what would you like to have featured on the Seattle Channel for an event like this.

- We are still negotiating with the Seattle Channel about the exact date of the event. The Seattle Channel has a lot of constraints, so, we can't have a live performance, other things like that.
- I'm talking with Michael Richardson of the Northwest ADA Center about the possibility of getting a recorded talk by Judy Heumann who is a world-famous disability advocate so that's one possibility.

- There is also a group of blind and low vision people who had been planning on performing a play. One of the gentlemen on our little subgroup would be playing Louie Braille, the man that invented the Braille code. So, they are now looking at doing and sort of an abridged version of that play and recording it at Jack Straw studios up in the U-District.
- The Washington talking book and Braille Library recently had a poetry night and so we are talking with them about exploring with the people who participated in that to see if any of them would be interested in recording their poetry performance to be aired during this event.

It's really important to me that this not just be a bunch of white disabled people and white cisgender disabled people so I'm going to be checking with the folks who are interested in having their poetry featured to try to make sure we work on that with that lens.

I would really like to hear the commission's ideas.

- Commissioner: I think one thing I always want to emphasize is uplifting disability justice leaders and the work that they are doing in their community so that we can all learn how to be better in that way. I am open to have a conversation later about that if you are interested.
- Response: I definitely would be interested and I definitely want to do that, to uplift disability justice voices, not just have sort of fluffy feature things.
- Commissioner: I would think about considering how do we, as a disability community, create a more cohesive community instead of a

siloed community? Can we figure out a way to create a system for universal connection? So that we can actually figure out how to stay connected and how can we look into resources that's helpful for everyone.

- Response There are things that are unique to some disabilities, and I don't want to ignore those, but, yes, I would like to work on that.
- Commissioner: I am wondering and am curious about adding something to do with social justice because when it comes to individuals of color with disabilities, like Black people and Indigenous people, sometimes we miss out on certain things that are in plain sight because we're not in those circles.

- Response: Yes, that's very important. I want to include those voices and also ways people can access information in what we show on the Seattle Channel. We are going to make sure that everything is captioned.
- Marci and CJ shared about a 30 minute film called the "The Changing Reality of Disability in America: 2020". We are looking for permission to show it in connection with this program. It was sort of a data-driven, both quantitative and qualitative data-driven approach to how disability and environment interact and featured, for example, a focus on the clean water crisis in Flint and the relationship to that crisis and disability. Also things like warfare and veterans and how that interacts with disability.
- Commissioner: The Seattle channel doesn't typically have captioning.

- Response: We are going to make sure that whatever we air as part of this program will be fully accessible to everyone.
- Commissioner: I think we were talking about having the commission's Jubilee awards in connection with this event, if we can collaborate during that time.
- Facilitator: In July you spoke about the possibility of doing awards and combining it when Holly was here and nothing was decided. It was kind of left up in the air. Hearing Marci presentation, it feels a little bit different and so I don't know how to guide this conversation. Originally your plan was to try to combine but I'm not sure that I'm hearing a space or a time, and also the eligibility and the application, the nomination process. I'm getting worried.

- Commissioner: I know we can't vote right now, but propose that we just move cancel the awards for this year. We already had the award stuff ready to be posted by now last year for when we met. We are behind the time.
- Commissioner: As far as the awards, I'm thinking it would be really cool if we could just give awards centered on things going on now that people are doing in the community during COVID.
- Commissioner: I say we add a COVID pandemic award
- Facilitator: We can certainly take notes on this meeting even if you can't make decisions. So, the commission needs to collect stories

of amazing activities that people with disabilities are engaging in during COVID and in 2021 we are going to add the COVID award.

 Marci - I will definitely be at your September meeting to update you, but I would also like you to be thinking about: Is there a disabled person you have heard who gave a really good talk that you might have seen speak about disability justice, that we might be able to utilize for this event. Contact Marci here - marcic5@icloud.com

Commissioner: suggested ChrisTiana

Commissioner: C.J. and Cleo is there any way on the library's website to highlight during the month of October authors as well as videos related to disability justice? Do you all have a space you can do that kind of thing?

- CJ's Response We do have that [SEP] I believe it's probably changed this month but for the month of July we had a book list that was up that was in celebration of the ADA 30th anniversary.
- Commissioner: Movies as well? You use that streaming service, I don't know if they ever look there to see if there are any disability justice videos that they offer that could be posted as well.
- CJ's Response I think that during this time they have been careful to let us know only to promote things that are available digitally since there are no physical materials.

Guest Speaker: Hannah Wilson and Nate Higby – Commission Collaboration with SLGBTQ Commission (presentation) 10 min

Nate is on LGBTQ Commission. He was born deaf and now has an implant. Nate and I wanted to see if our commissions could collaborate to do a panel to uplift disabled and queer leaders in our community.

- Our idea is to have three local and national leaders. We already have one confirmed speaker. Their name is Catallyya Storm. They are a Black queer person who has done a lot of education on Black ASL history and Black Deaf history.
- We are hoping to do this event in October 2020. The exact date is to be decided because we are working with someone at Town Hall to create a virtual Town Hall. They would be able to provide the actual virtual space, tech support, as well as some like marketing and outreach support. We are also going to have an interpreter and CART provided.
- The reason why we were doing this is that it is a great opportunity to update lift queer and disabled leaders in our communities. We want to highlight the importance of intersectional issues ask identities,

especially with what's going on right now. It is important to have a conversation around queer and disabled Black folks who are victims of police violence, inadequate health care, and other forms of systemic oppression.

- We would like to compensate each speaker \$200 for their time and labor, so we are asking each commission to contribute about \$300 each. We also wanted to have permission and access to share on our social networks and websites.
- we are also open to other panelist suggestions.

Nate - I think something that's exciting is the fact that having this virtual event will allow us to pull somebody who has a little bit more of a big shot nationally. Then being able to sit them at the same table with some local advocates and have a conversation about what advocacy looks like

locally versus nationally - I think that's a really interesting dialogue that could come out of this.

Commissioner: I am already working with Hannah to help find a speaker.

Seattle Office for Civil Rights Report

Get Engaged Commissioner: I will start out with the Get Engaged update for 2020, 2021. We get a new Get Engaged Commissioner every year. We are currently working with the Y(mca) and the Mayor's Office to select and review some applications as well as conduct interviews with the applicants for this year. There has been some delay, mostly due to COVID and other restrictions from the Mayor's Office. However, we have started interviewing and by the end of this month we should have

something finalized to push forward. I think we will have our new Get Engaged commissioner confirmed by October.

• In the meantime, Hannah, who is our current Get Engaged commissioner will stay on to her specific current position until that new person is appointed. Hannah has also signed on to continue with the Commission, so, we will be working with Hannah to move her into a two-year term.

Budget: There has been no expenses so the commission still has a \$2,000 balance which needs to be spent by December 31st, 2020.

Retreat: We need to start putting tentative plans in place. Will it be in December or January? Other commissions are doing condensed retreats – 4-5 hours virtually.

- Commissioner: If its virtual I have no preference.
- Commissioner: I agree, if its virtual I can make it work much easier than in person.
- Commissioner: I'd prefer January if we can meet in person. I prefer to meet in person.
- Commissioner: Being a homeless person, I do not have indoor access on Saturdays and Sundays. And it's too hard for me to do more than one hour outside on my phone due to the lack of access of electricity. A weekday would be easier or even week evening type thing, or even splitting it up to do two hours or two and a half hours and then two

hours and two and a half hours some evening where I can get in to somewhere.

 Facilitator: So pretty much a daytime time is when you know for sure starting at like 9am until like 6:00pm is that the window?

• Commissioner: Or to 8pm.

Scooter email: Concerning the email that Janet sent out about the scooters - are they looking for a formalized letter signed by Eric and ChrisTiana from us as a Commission? Or are they just looking for individual feedback?

• Janet - I think because of the short time frame, they just wanted to get individual feedback. The committee meeting happened yesterday and

the vote was mostly passed. It would still be beneficial if you have any comments or feedback to connect with Noel, or you can send it to me.

- Commissioner: What form do they want us to respond in? And, two, how do we know what they actually agreed on yesterday?
- Commissioner: City Council is proposing letting scooters onto scooter docks in certain areas around Seattle. They were asking for feedback. I signed a letter in conjunction with an organization I am a part of because I am concerned about the scooters because I got hurt in my wheelchair with the bikes. They were left outside and my medical expenses were almost not covered because they said I should have gone to Lime but Lime doesn't have any sort of insurance around that. I made sure I put the comments in that for people with disabilities,

there needs to be some sort of damages and they need to be held accountable. If you leave a scooter outside the dock, you don't ever get a scooter again for a year or something. There needs to be some sort of an insurance or something for people who get hurt when people leave the scooters out. I know Marci was saying a lot -- has spoken a lot about the fact that a lot of individuals who are blind have run into the bikes and the scooters as well, out in Redmond or one of those towns out east where they already have the scooter program. So just to be cautious and that the City is mindful in the fact that these scooters can be dangerous to those of us with visual impairments. People in general, elderly, kids, wherever these scooters are left, if they are not accountable.

• Commissioner: Providing and requiring a docking space for them is important, just like with Alaska Airlines - they had a docking station when they had the bikes. They had like a docking station on First

Avenue. They had a docking station that was on every other block. You had to dock the actual bike and you had to put the helmet back.

Online meetings accessible:

• Commissioner: I would like to see if there's any way that OCR can put something on their website explaining to organizations how to make Zoom or whatever platform you are using accessible because I run into organizations almost every single day that I ask captioning for and they respond by asking if there is any place you can send us to so we know how to do it. There is not really a document or website that explains CART, Microsoft Teams, Google meet, New Adobe etc. People are in need of some sort of guide, like a one-pager online about how to make all of these online whatever you call it

accessible. I really think it would be important for our City to do this service.

• Commissioner: Maybe we need to host an event like the one surrounding closed captioning. We had a meeting that informed all the businesses. It's really important because there are a lot of people, even on the Facebook groups for the deaf and hard of hearing for the state of Washington, that don't know how to make meetings accessible. Maybe we can do a recording on the sites we know about then post it. I think it would do our city good to have this resource (video and/or one pager) available so people understand how to make virtual meetings accessible.

Commissioner: it's not even just people, It's hospitals, it's doctors. It's have to fight to be able to get basic medical care these days because people don't want to write things down and nobody will provide captioning

except UW. It gets very frustrating when you have medical care and you can't access physical therapy because they refuse - it takes too much time to write things down and they won't get a captioner.

Facilitator: I have a strange suggest which might break all codes of captioners. Lisa is our professional captioner. She has been taking note of everything you are saying. If we were all quiet, would you be able to type an answer or if you have any insights Lisa.

Captioner: I also get asked that by people who want captioning, they ask me how does it happen through Zoom and so now I know how it happens through Zoom and Webex so I can tell them a few tricks. They are really short instructions only a few things to click on both Zoom and Webex. I now have a boiler plate thing that I just copy and paste into emails when people ask me that.

- Commissioner: We also need a list of captioners as well because I'm frequently asked about captioners and the only name and email I give out is Lisa's and I know she is very busy.
- Facilitator: There might be City code that limits what you are allowed to do, Janet? Can you put names?
- Janet: I think there would be requests for us to check in with those individuals but also to see if that's something that we can post just because it could be private information.
- Captioner: I used to work with somebody from the City of Seattle that also worked with Holly. She isn't with the City of Seattle anymore

however she put together a list of captioners and I don't know where her list ever went, but maybe Holly knows where the list went.

Jubilee Celebration

Committee Updates

Commissioner: Delridge Neighborhood construction leading to lack of accessibility.

This is not really a committee update, but so I live in the Delridge neighborhood where there is a lot of construction going on and I mean it's crazy over here. It's gotten to a point where it's becoming inaccessible. I am not really leaving my house because I don't know where I can and can't go safely on my own, and I know that there is a high volume of

people, disabled individuals, in the neighborhood. There is a disability housing place, a block or two away from me. There are a lot of wheelchair users, lots of people on crutches, walkers, strollers, you know. It's really - it's been a little tough. Especially with being in the middle of a pandemic and trying to make sure that I leave my house and engage in self-care, getting out of the house is an important thing for me but it's really difficult to do.

It's getting difficult to go to the grocery store. It's like I have had to try to find new ways to work around that because I don't drive currently. I am now taking steps towards being able to do that. I have hand controls for the first time in my life, which I'm super excited about. But, I don't drive. I take the bus and with the construction it's affecting the bus system. Many of the stops that were accessible are no longer accessible.

I don't know what I need to ask – but I need help.

- Commissioner: As far as Metro, I'm in connection with the ADA coordinator and I can get you that information about the Metro sites. As far as the sidewalks I would tell you to go straight to Anna Zi Bart. You could also contact access and try and do an access for certain conditions they will do like an Access you can ride and then maybe you can use access I know it's a pain in the butt.
- Commissioner: I currently do not have Access. I'm also looking at other transportation services as well because Access is not free and there is big financial issue that I have to take into consideration.
- Commissioner: Access has been free during COVID.

• Janet - My initial thought was for you to speak with Holly, just having a conversation with her. See She has some resources and deals with ADA compliance. In addition to that, we can also have you schedule an appointment with our intake investigator at OCR and see if this could fall under something. Or in some cases it doesn't, but our intake investigator does have some useful resources that she could also refer to.

Marci's Group:

 Commissioner - Why is there another committee that Holly and Marci are part of that sounds like work we should be doing? That sounded very confusing to me because, I don't know, the work that Marci described sounded like stuff we should be doing. • CJ - I can give some background about the history of it. Holly is the ADA Title II ADA manager for the City and Autumn Harris is the Title II ADA coordinator and there is a group that meets monthly that includes an ADA coordinator from each of the City's departments. Some sub-workgroups were formed out of that group that are doing different work for the City around accessibility. There was an emergency planning group, a group for contracts with the City, etc... One of the groups is the community engagement group. So it's the ADA Community Engagement Group and Cleo as the ADA coordinator for the library was heading that up for a while and still is under Holly and autumn. They both come to the meetings as well. [5] There is no sort of membership or appointment, people who want to participate can attend those meetings. They have been postponed since the library's closure. Before the closure there was a smaller group that was formed to plan some ADA 30 events that the City would put on.

• Commissioner: I would love to hear about the subcommittees and the work that they are doing as well because I didn't get that before. It just would be interesting to me because we used to have a public police department / fire department type group – the Commission had a group. The group fell like apart like a year ago to a year and a half ago and I was on that group because I was just starting and then the group disappeared but it was still an interest of mine.

Technical Check-out

Meeting Adjourned at 5:56pm

Recommendations list for Commissioners

- Jubilee Awards: Recommend that the commission cancels this year's awards and also creates a 2021 award centered on things going on now that people are doing in the community during COVID.
- Co-Sponsoring SLGBTQ Commission Event: Commissioners recommend that the commission support the event with social media marketing as well as \$300 to help compensate event speakers.
- Delridge Neighborhood Construction leading to inaccessible space:
 Commission members recommend joint advocacy with Kaitlin as Miss
 Wheelchair Washington as well as a member of the commission.
- Commission Budget: Consider investment in computers and tablets.

Action Items

Future Agenda Items

- Funding and Marketing for Hannah + Nate's event.
- Delridge accessibility follow up
- Invest money in computers and tablets.
- Invest in promoting the new name of the commission.