



# City of Seattle

---



## Meeting Minutes

Thursday, March 21, 2019 | 6:30 – 8:30 PM

Seattle City Hall, Boards & Commissions Conference Room L-280

600 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Seattle Washington

**Commissioners Present:** Chris Brown, Jessi Murray, Julia Ricciardi, Katrina Sanford, Manuel Venegas, Deepa Sivarajan, Latosha Correll, Kari Lerum, Michael Garrett, Alejandro Castillo, and Byram Simpson

**Commissioners Absent:** Sabel Roizen, Lindsay Church, Lauren Boling, Joseph Suttner, and Ely Hernandez

**SOCR Staff:** Caedmon Magboo Cahill

**Meeting Minutes recorded by:** Deepa Sivarajan and Byram Simpson

**Guests:** Bianca Hill, Shanyanika McElroy, Andrew Escobedo, Austin Sprague, Robert White, Tara Beck, Will Booth

### Welcome and Introductions

### Public Open Comment

1. Austin Sprague: Wondermen Seattle does advertising for Amazon/T-Mobile/Metro PCS – they have money for LGBTQ campaign and are asking committee for advice on how to spend
  - a. Budget: A few thousand dollars
  - b. Timeline: Plan to implement by Pride month
  - c. Suggestion from Commission to think about LGBTQ youth experiencing homelessness as a potential campaign topic

### Approve February Minutes and March Agenda

1. Motion to approve February minutes with below edits. **Motion passes (10 in favor, 1 abstention)**
  - a. Remove Kari Lerum from “Commissioners Present”
  - b. Remove from “with below edits” from line about passing January minutes
  - c. Change “January agenda” to “February agenda”
2. Motion to approve March agenda with below edits. **Motion passes (10 in favor, 1 abstention)**
  - a. Add Robert White to agenda to present Right to Serve Rally update

### **Right to Serve Rally**

1. Update from Robert White of Minority Veterans of America (MVA)
2. MVA is responding to the Trump administration's Transgender Military Ban with a series of rallies around the country, including a Seattle rally on Saturday, April 13 at Westlake Park
  - a. Funding is all from MVA, the main other organizational partner is Out for America
  - b. Working with the Department of Justice (DOJ) to assess threats for the rally; locally, working with the Seattle Police Department (SPD) as well
  - c. MVA has previously done Earth Day and Pride events in many cities around the United States, but usually at a much smaller level
3. Ask of the Commission: issue a statement against ban, and give (non-financial) support in some way for rally – notifications for social media, recs for other organizations for coalition, contacts with commissions in other cities
4. Questions/comments from commissioners:
  - a. Request for list of organizations that are already involved; MVA will share
  - b. Two commissioners shared that their vote to support trans people is not a motion to support US imperialism, and that they believe the entire military should be disbanded
5. Motion for the Commission to take a public stance in opposition to the Transgender Military Ban.  
**Motion passes (100%)**
6. Motion for the Commission to express endorsement of the Right to Serve Rally on April 13. **Motion passes (100%)**

### **Council Statement of Legislative Intent (SLI) on LGBTQ Homelessness Services**

1. Report from Tara Beck, Seattle Human Services Department (HSD)
2. HSD is contracted with Ingersoll Gender Center to do a deep dive on HSD's policies on contracts with shelters for people experiencing homelessness
  - a. Looking at shelter contracts as they relate transgender and gender-diverse shelter clients
  - b. Ingersoll will also come back to Commission after recommendations are finalized
3. Ask of the Commission: two to three volunteers to participate in three to four workgroup meetings in April
  - a. If anyone is interested, reach out to Dusty Olson at HSD to express interest – may have some flexibility in scheduling
  - b. Meetings are at Seattle Municipal Tower, but it may be possible to do Skype meetings
4. Questions/comments from Commissioners:
  - a. Suggestion to reach out to QTPOC, people with disabilities, LGBTQ people actively experiencing homelessness and housing insecurity, aging and senior LGBTQ people
  - b. Request to have relevant documents sent to full Commission so that commissioners who cannot attend workgroup meetings can still provide feedback
  - c. Inquiry around whether the Racial Equity Toolkit has been utilized in this process
  - d. Comment that this process may not actually work for the community most impacted, considering the late notice, quick timeline, and lack of early notification
5. Tara Beck will take back the Commission's thoughts and concerns about the process who needs to be at the table to Dusty Olson, who will follow up with Erika Pablo

### **Parks Oversight Committee**

1. Report from Shanyanika McElroy, Seattle Parks and Recreation

2. Parks District Oversight Committee (PDOC) provides oversight of the taxing district on operations and maintenance of existing assets
  - a. Shared annual report for the Parks District
3. Ask of Commission: endorse a person to serve on the committee to serve the interests of the LGBTQ community
  - a. Committee seats have three-year terms
  - b. Meetings are monthly at the Parks and Recreation headquarters at 100 Dexter Avenue
  - c. Possible for the Commission to endorse a community member rather than an existing commissioner
4. Questions/comments from commissioners:
  - a. Inquiry about whether PDOC currently has a member representing the LGBTQ community: no
  - b. Inquiry about whether funds from Parks District can go to both capital and operational costs: yes
  - c. Comment that accountability is necessary in this process

#### **Seattle Office of Civil Rights (SOCR) Report**

1. Dominique Stevens is new SOCR liaison for commissions
  - a. Erika met with Dominique to express concerns about how long mayoral appointments have been taking
  - b. Dominique is taking over organization of Pride
2. Erika and Caedmon trying to get new conference line equipment
3. Pride Asia would like Commission to have someone speak at their event on Sunday, May 26
4. Wayne Rocque attending committee hearing next week of 3/26 for approval
5. How can SOCR better support commission? Event checklist that Caedmon will send
  - a. Includes notes about flyering, food, access needs
6. Our budget is back down to \$2,000 for 2019
7. Questions/comments from commissioners:
  - a. Can Seattle Channel film our meetings?

#### **Statement of support for Muslim community in our sister city, Christchurch**

1. Christchurch is a sister city to Seattle, mosques in Christchurch were attacked on March 15 by a shooter during Friday prayer
2. Today is Nowruz, the Persian New Year, day of peace and solidarity
3. The seventh day after a death in Islam is important, or Thursdays – days of remembrance
4. Questions/comments from commissioners:
  - a. Mayor's office had a leather notebook after Pulse that people wrote notes in and sent to Orlando – could do something similar
  - b. Reach out to CM Juarez's office since is liaison to sister city
5. Motion to issue a statement of support for the Muslim community in Christchurch, recognizing intersectionality of the queer and other identities within Muslim community. **Motion passes (100%)**

#### **No New Youth Jail and LGBTQ youth prison industrial complex**

1. Commission previously had policing accountability as a committee/area of interest, but did not discuss youth incarceration or prison industrial complex
2. Commission as a whole voted to support letter opposing new Youth Service Center construction, however does not appear that there was much follow through on publicizing our stance
3. Potential next steps:

- a. Re-engagement with the No New Youth Jail campaign
  - i. Could engage around utilization of the new space for community resources/outreach
  - ii. More information about campaign on No New Youth Jail campaign
- b. Figuring out what queer incarcerated youth need
- c. Connecting with agencies
- d. Committee/commissioner involvement
  - i. Community Outreach and POC Stakeholders committees could consider including in workplans
  - ii. Intersects with focus on homelessness and mental health
  - iii. Existing platform of SOCR's re-entry report and related work groups
- 4. King County committed to ending the use of youth solitary confinement but is still engaging in the practice
  - a. Public hearing related to this on March 26
- 5. Homeless youth being charged for a third time for a murder, two previous charges ended in mistrial
- 6. Concerns around treatment of LGBTQ people by Seattle Police Department (SPD)
  - a. Danni Askini assaulted by SPD officer
  - b. SPD's use of LGBTQ imagery and safe spaces to assert a positive relationship while many community members express still feeling intimidated by and afraid to call police
- 7. Questions/comments by commissioners:
  - a. Are we adding this to the work plan, replacing focus areas or dovetailing with one or more?
  - b. Be able to come to April meeting with something clear to vote on if this is something we want to prioritize

### **Committee Reports**

- 1. SLGBTQ Committees reported back on initial discussions for two-year workplan
- 2. Commission Operations Committee
  - a. Co-chairs are Deepa Sivarajan and Lauren Boling; members are Chris Brown and Sabel Roizen
  - b. Mission/Goal: Supporting the Seattle LGBTQ Commission by maintaining documentation, budget and operational processes
  - c. Strategies:
    - i. Work with key stakeholders to facilitate recruitment and retention of commissioners, in line with Commission's goals for equity in representation
    - ii. Create and maintain operational documents to ensure transparency with the public and facilitate consistent internal processes
    - iii. Amplify work of other committees through logistical support
    - iv. Maintain oversight and furtherment of current operational processes
- 3. People of Color Stakeholder Committee:
  - a. Co-chairs are Latosha Correll and Ely Hernandez; members are Joseph Suttner, Manuel Venegas, Deepa Sivarajan, and Katrina Sanford
  - b. Mission/Goal: Review current policies and practices of creating an affirming and inclusive equitable place for People of Color (POC)
  - c. Strategies:
    - i. Partnership with organizations to amplify people of color voices
    - ii. Launch and complete a POC survey
    - iii. Advocate for housing for POC
- 4. Social Media & Communications Committee

- a. Co-chair is Joseph Suttner; members are Jessi Murray, Sabel Roizen, Chris Brown, and Michael Garrett
  - b. Mission/Goal: To leverage social media to amplify our commission's work and communicate with our community to foster a platform for engagement
  - c. Strategies:
    - i. Manage all social accounts (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube)
    - ii. Amplify other committees' work
    - iii. Increase community engagement through various social platforms
5. Community Outreach & Engagement Committee
- a. Co-chairs are Alejandro Castillo and Michael Garrett; members are Lindsay Church, Byram Simpson, Katrina Sanford, and Manuel Venegas
  - b. Mission/Goal: To advocate for Seattle's LGBTQ+ population by serving as a hub/conduit of information and resources for our constituents, organizations, and policy-makers that reside in the City of Seattle while continuing to advocate to preserve the dignity and full-spectrum identities of those most marginalized in our community
  - c. Strategies:
    - i. To increase direct engagement with constituents and stakeholders in the LGBTQ+ population of the City of Seattle
    - ii. To build a resource database for our constituents to access necessary and impactful resources
    - iii. To increase awareness and relevancy of the LGBTQ Commission in the City of Seattle
    - iv. To listen to the community, assess their needs, and define the LGBTQ Commission's role in the LGBTQ+ and broader communities

### **Report back from 5-Chairs meeting**

1. Hosting post primary candidate forum – has to be open to all candidates
  - a. We are not able to endorse candidates as a commission or as individual commissioners
  - b. Forum will likely be in August – currently crafting questions, etc.
2. Requesting better A/V tech in order to make commission meetings more accessible
3. Marta pulled together some materials for clearer onboarding, and are looking at scheduling a training for commissioners to learn about the onboarding process
  - a. Keep Commission Operations in the loop regarding orientation processes
  - b. Commission for People with disAbilities is putting together a welcome packet for new commissioners, may be worth collaborating/sharing resources with them
4. Seattle white supremacist groups have 'hit lists' of marginalized targets - what action can the city and white people/people with social identity privileges take that is more than resolutions and proclamations?
  - a. Example of Danni Askini
  - b. Agenda item for next commission meeting
5. Questions/comments from commissioners:
  - a. Request for co-chairs to address 5-Commissions email regarding Portland City Council resolution condemning white supremacy
  - b. Can we play "musical chairs" and rotate chairs of 5 commissions to increase collaboration amongst SOCR commissions?

### **Announcements, Reminders, & Roll Call for Next Meeting**

1. Councilmember Rob Johnson stepping down before end of his term and Council is looking for a volunteer to complete his term – can we amplify this seat and encourage LGBTQ involvement in city government?
2. Email listserv and let people know if you are interested in involvement in the city budget process
3. Waterfront Seattle open house on Tuesday, April 2 to discuss Pioneer Square pedestrian improvement project
  - a. Recognition that Pioneer Square has a long LGBTQ history and a high population of people experiencing houselessness
4. Victory/Victory Fund Institute: send names of LGBTQ people running for office anywhere for any level of government in the country, please sent names to Chris
  - a. There will be an event the same night as July commission meeting
5. Julia Ricciardi's last commission meeting! Thank you for your dedication, leadership, and spirit
6. Jessi Murray and Michael Garrett may not able to make next meeting

**(END 8:38)**