

Seattle Human Rights Commission
Meeting Minutes
Thursday October 4, 2018, 6:00 – 8:00 pm

Commissioners in Attendance:

Shkelqim Kelmendi
Tammy Morales
Adrian Glover
Pam Schwarz
Elizabeth Pachaud
Dae Shik Kim Hawkins
Jessica Bhuiyan
Jackie Turner
Danielle Wallace (on the phone??)

Commissioners absent:

Erika Chen
Derek Lum

SOCR staff: Marta Idowu

Guests: Polly Grow, Renee Labeau, Manuel Vargas

Public Comment:

Alex Tsimmerman commented on the investigation process with OCR. Commented he has asked OCR director why no investigation.

Approval of minutes: Minutes have been delayed for August and September

Presentation:

Polly Grow and Renee Labeaux from the Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission presented on changes to the Democracy Voucher Program. Results from 2017 showed a 300% increase in the number of people contributing to political campaigns due to having access to a voucher.

For 2019, vouchers will be mailed to households around February 12th. SEEC will translate short candidate statements into 14 languages so that information can be provided to voters who don't typically vote. Homeless people can participate online, but there are still challenges to getting them vouchers. SEEC is legally required to send vouchers via mail. SEEC also creating a live-action video of how to fill out a voucher.

SOCR update:

Mayor's appointments are done; will be confirmed at council 12/11 9:30. Appointees should plan on attending and making short remarks about their interest.

Sarah Hillman
Judy Howard
Derek Lum
Ericka Chen

We still have 2 open Mayoral appointments - Shkelqim is meeting with Evan from the mayor's office to discuss

5 Commission meetings – Next quarterly meeting is November 14th 5:30-7:30. Any commissioner is invited to attend. Meetings are held at the OCR office.

Appeals update:

2 cases heard...

Officer Nominations

Secretary and Appeals Chair positions are open; could do co-chairs for Appeals

Role of the Secretary – part of the exec committee, help set agendas and prep for meetings, help make urgent decisions.

Elizabeth Pachaud nominated

Role of Appeals Chair – serve as contact with City Hearing Examiner, coordinate volunteers to hear appeals and be on call to help make decisions.

Nominated:

Adrian Glover

Jessica Bhuiyan

Jackie Turner

Vote will happen at November meeting.

Task Force Updates

I & R - in contact w/ WISN and legal bond fund - trying to get into Seattle legal defense fund; talking with Sarah Bishop; meeting with CM Gonzalez/Mosqueda to see where workplans align; to see what they can join on to; discussed Public Charge

Homelessness - last week encampment swept w/ 100 residents; city planning to build a dog park there; next week's meeting hope to get some action steps; CM Mosqueda wanting to reallocate funds away from homeless; Mega block -

RaGE – Tyrone, Jessica and Ericka interested. Tyrone will connect with Katrina Sanford from the LGBTQ Commission.

Human Rights Day

Need help leading planning committee - Jessica, Erik and Valentina will step up; don't have a venue yet; Gates, Fremont Abbey, Riveter

Nomination form for awards needs to be put on website and sent.

Public Charge policy changes

Discussion about proposed change that would affect immigrants/refugees. Proposal would broaden restriction to all forms of public assistance federal and state like CHIP, Headstart, public housing.

Prepare comments to respond to Federal Register - need to flood comments.

From the City of Seattle website:

This proposed rule is not yet in effect. You have until Monday, December 10 to share your thoughts about the new proposal by submitting your input as a "public comment" to a publication called the "Federal Register." You can only submit comments in English. You do not need to be a U.S. citizen to submit a comment. The proposed rule will not become final until after the government has considered all of the comments.

The City of Seattle is opposed to this proposed rule and will be submitting a public comment. To submit your own comment, we recommend using this Cities for Action public comment page, which streamlines the public comment process:

Click: www.citiesforaction.us/publiccharge.

Strategic planning:

Brief discussion about what to start thinking about for our planning retreat in January.

For next year – Can we focus on intersectionality/ support women of color helps all women/

Where do we want to focus re: budget/policy

How to crack open the HRC? Let's get out of the basement of City Hall!

Next meeting: introduce ourselves more; meet at a community space; have coffee with 1 commissioner you don't know

Adjourn

Tammy adjourned the meeting at 8pm