

Seattle Human Rights Commission Minutes

Thursday, October 7, 2021

6:00–8:00 p.m.

[WebEx](#)

Facilitator: Julia Ismael **Notetaker:** Jackie Schultz **Timekeeper:** Alexander Tang

Commissioners Present: Jessica Bhuiyan, Erika Chen (Appeals Chair), Brian Egger, Tyrone Grandison, Julia Ismael (Co-Chair), Allan Nyaribo, Natasha Bennett, Kayleigh Kleiva

Pre-Confirmed Commissioner Attendees: Roopali Dhingra, Rachel Kramer, Jackie Schultz, (anticipated confirmation December 2021)

Absent: Liz Pachaud, Guneeta Chanda, Robel Mulugeta (Dec '21), Jackie Turner, Amanda Richer, Alexander Tang

OCR Attendees: Marta Idowu, Meredith Stone

Public Attendees: Dr. Howard Gale

| Time | Topic | Presenter |
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| 6:00-6:10 | Call to Order Welcome & Introductions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Name, Pronouns, Affiliation Public Comment (1 min each) Approve September 2021 minutes | Facilitator *Vote needed |
| <p>Dr. Howard J. Gale joined to comment - 14 killings since John T Williams - every one of them was found to be lawful and we have a serious problem here - "policescorecard.org" measures police accountability - they give Seattle a 20% accountability score - He joined to have a discussion - he thinks we need to have a 'difficult' conversation. His group "seattlestop.org" is trying to change the narrative. Contact: hjgale@post.harvard.edu</p> <p>Vote on September Meeting Minutes: <i>Quorum is 50%+1 = 8 confirmed commissioners (yes quorum- 8 confirmed here today)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Motion to approve September 2021 Minutes by: Erika Chen Seconded by: Ty Grandison Approved: #8 Any opposed? #0 Any abstentions? #0 | | |
| 6:10-6:15 | Climate Letter update | Liz |
| Liz is not in attendance so wasn't able to update us this evening. Ty noted he knows it is still in progress. This will get moved to next month's agenda. | | |
| 6:15-6:20 | Houselessness Letter update | Amanda & Ty |
| Ty gave an update - Amanda and Ty spent a few weeks on the letter and didn't have time for other commissions to sign off. The letter basically asked council to take a very close look at the numbers - they need to address the problem because of the real demand in the community. That letter went out but they are still waiting on meeting dates to discuss. Julia will ask Amanda to share her perspective in next month's agenda. Natasha asked how we can build political capital in the city so that letters like these do not get ignored. Julia noted we should add this to the agenda in our retreat: how do we effectively and compassionately speak for the community. Ty noted we should also be thinking about holding the mayor | | |

and council accountable - how do we advise and not get ignored - Meredith Stone/OCR's staff person can help with that - it is a delicate dance!

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| 6:20-6:50 | Ongoing Work Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Events<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Add'l Candidate Forums○ Human Rights Day: Dec 9, 2021<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ No regular Dec meeting● Leadership<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Jan 2022 Retreat - Jan 29th from 10am - 330pm● Communications<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Need volunteers● Commission development<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Need a few volunteers● Appeals<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Mon, September 27th at 1pm | All |
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Communications:

Ty updated that we still need support in Communications - Annie needed to step away - please send Ty an email or chat if interested in joining the Comms working group. Julia will give it some thought, she may be able to step in and help.

Commission Development:

There are two new potential candidates that will be contacted this month. We are hoping to receive more applications and will put out a notice to get some potential applicants in November. We need volunteers to interview one to two candidates in November. Need three volunteers per interview. Jackie Schultz, Jessica B, Kayleigh Kleiva, and Roopali Dhingra can all volunteer. Natasha will send a "when2meet" to fill out availability for those volunteers.

The other piece to think about is when to push out calls for the open seats. Potentially a deadline for early November for incoming applicants, interviews at the end of November, and decisions by December. Erika suggested this is an ambitious timeline especially due to the holidays. Natasha thought the timeline could work so that they could join us for the retreat in January. Julia commented she thinks it is a good idea to open up the process now. Ty concurred that getting the applications up would be useful, even if they miss the January retreat. Joining in February or March, just before July, would be great so we can replace those that will roll over in July. Interviewing now and doing major recruitment in Feb.

Appeals:

Erika hasn't heard from OCR yet on when the appeal hearing will be heard. When she hears the date from OCR she will let the rest of the confirmed members know the date and time of that hearing.

Events:

Human Rights Day committee updated us on where they are as of today. Rachel Kramer and Jessica B report that there are panelists confirmed, there is a draft budget being put together (e.g. from last year run of show), the theme is "hate crimes post 911" but will update the exact wording, they are working on a moderator, they will put in a call for new commissioners in that event, the event will be virtual (Seattle Channel). Ty asked: can we update the name to make it more positive? Rachel responded that would be up to Marta since she had to submit the name weeks ago to Seattle Channel. Marta updated us that the group decided on the title and need to revisit it to determine a new name - they were excited about the name - but it is possible to change the name. Ty wants to make sure we are focused on the healing and recovery portion and not the hate-crime portion. We will workshop this offline.

Ty also noted - the Human Rights Awards will take time - organize how the prizes will be given, how the videos will be put together and gathered, etc. Rachel noted that the group is meeting next Friday to discuss and asked if Ty could pop into the meeting to help them review the categories from previous year. Guneeta will come to the meeting and report back to everyone. Jessica B mentioned that it's crucial for committee members to pass around nomination forms far and wide/through their networks so that we can find folks to nominate and award. Natasha asked: what are the awards, who receives them, etc.? Categories are: a person, an org, and a community group. The award is to celebrate those group's impact and celebrate their work in the Seattle community. The awards nomination form will be emailed to all commissioners.

We need volunteers to be judges for the awards - Jackie Schultz will volunteer, Aaron (last name) will volunteer, Allan Nyaribo will volunteer, Ty Grandison will volunteer, Roopali Dhingra will volunteer. There will be criteria shared from last year for the judges.

Vote to pass the Seattle LGBTQ Commission Letter:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1T13jNBWnWuuh51tDjLv9K904Jtk8Gi_IXPQFJjmxQWQ/edit?usp=sharing - next steps are to respond to Andrew (?) to say that we are signing on.

Vote to pass the letter:

Quorum is 50%+1 = 8 confirmed commissioners (yes quorum- 8 confirmed here today)

- Motion to sign onto the LGBTQ Commission letter by: **Ty Grandison**
- Seconded by: **Erika Chen**
- **Approved: #8**
- Any opposed? **#0**
- Any abstentions? **#0**

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| 6:50-7:40 | Co-Chair Election <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Nominee statements ● Questions ● Voting (2 electees) | Facilitator |
| <p>We will wait until the January retreat until all those that are confirmed, to vote on this. Nominations will happen in November since there is no December meeting, so that votes and elections can happen in January. Ty asked: why do we have two co-chairs available? Julia responded that equity and accountability to the public is of utmost importance for this commission - in looking at the by-laws, we wanted to make sure that we were following them, and in the process what was discovered was that there were major flaws in equity of our by-laws so we have created two open co-chair positions.</p> | | |
| 7:40-7:50 | SOCR Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 5-commission updates | Marta Idowu |
| <p>Marta updated:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Monday, Oct 11th at 12:45-1:30 "Comprehensive Plan meeting" ● December 8th - new commissioner appointments at 2pm - 6 SHRC's will need to be there to answer questions and engage with city officials. ● Marta asked if we would participate in another candidate forum if it is proposed - ballots are mailed out Oct 12th - the response was that it is too late to do this. Marta will let officials know that we will not be doing this. ● Nov 10th, 5:30-7:30pm - 5-Commission meeting - leadership should attend. | | |
| 7:50-8:00 | Announcements Next Meeting: Thursday, November 4, 2021 | All |

Additional Comments:

- Julia asked if there was anyone that wanted to serve as a liaison for the 'police accountability commission' - she asked that we all consider and follow up with her.
- Ty noted that there is an October 12th meeting where the community can ask the DOJ direct questions on the Community Police Commission (CPC), there is a possibility that SHRC can be a co host or co facilitator.
- Dr. Howard J. Gale noted: There are 3 parts to the Seattle police accountability structure: Office of Police Accountability (OPA, responsible for investigating police complaints), the Office of Inspector General (OIG, responsible for oversight of OPA), & The Seattle Community Police Commission (CPC, which has no power & is supposed to represent the voice of the community. The CPC has blocked community input for over 7 years, & as recently as yesterday has shown an unwillingness to deal with criticism: see <https://hjpgale.tumblr.com/post/664252590032371712/seattle-community-police-commission-indicates-it>
- Ty asked for volunteers for The Fellows Program- Natasha Bennett and Alan both volunteered, Roopali also asked for more information.
- Julia requested three volunteers to review the by-laws and make comments before the retreat. Ty and Erika volunteered. Roopali asked if we should add this request to the chat so others can join (those that weren't able to join us this evening). Julia will send by-laws to everyone in case they want to participate.
- January 29th from 10am to 330pm for the 2022 retreat.