



City of Seattle

Ed Murray, Mayor

**Seattle Women's Commission**

### **MINUTES**

Seattle Women's Commission  
Boards and Commissions Conference Room L280  
600 Fourth Avenue, City Hall  
**Monday, December 19, 2016, 5:30 –7:30 p.m.**

**Commissioners Present:** Idabelle Fosse, Erica Soelling, Lylianna Allala, Nicki Olivier-Hellenkamp, Xochitl Maykovich, Michele Frix, Rokea Jones, Allison Mondt, Teresa Springer, Keisha Jackson.

**Commissioners Calling In:** Ruchika Tushiyan

**Commissioners Absent/Excused/Leave:** Allyson Palmer, Jaron Reed Goddard, Loida C. Erhard, Tracey Whitten, Morgan Beach, Honey Jo Herman, Mergitu Argo, Elsa Batres-Boni, Jacquee Kurdas

**Start time: 5:30PM**

#### **Announcements:**

- Update about paid family leave (PFL) event: Well attended, with Lorena Gonzalez speaking & panel discussion about local businesses implementing PFL policies. State and City Level policies considered. Attended by Loida & Ruchika.
- January meeting date: meeting moved 1 week later than scheduled to Monday, January 23<sup>rd</sup>, to honor MLK Day
- Commissioners can independently show up to/speak at events as an individual Seattle Women's Commissioner, but can't reflect/represent the whole SWC
- Lylianna's last day ☺
- Approval of minutes: approved (100%)

#### **Guest Speakers: René LeBeau & Jenna Smith**

*Members of the Seattle Ethics and Election Commission Democracy Voucher Program*

- Email [jenna.smith@seattle.gov](mailto:jenna.smith@seattle.gov) with ideas for outreach about program
- Initiative 122 changed many rules: who can give to campaigns; what campaigns can receive; paid signature gatherers must be designated; lobbyists can't work right after leaving office, etc.
- Those able to be funded by democracy vouchers: Seattle residents, 18+ years, additional federal level rules (citizens, permanent residents, etc.) who're running for City office
- Funded by property taxes
- Immediate changes:
  - Mailers sent out to all Seattle households (translated in 14 languages)
  - January 3<sup>rd</sup>: actual vouchers dropped into mail
  - Have until June to enter program. Automatic if registered to vote. Application process for people who cannot register to vote on website. 1 postage paid envelope. Accepted at all customer service centers. Also, accepting camera phone pictures, faxes.
  - Ability for 6 candidates fully funded by vouchers. More voucher dollars out there than there is actual funding for candidates currently.

**Guest: Andrea Kadlec**

**Alliance to End Sexual Violence in Long-term Care**

*With Disability Rights Washington*

- Visit Disability Rights Washington (DRW) website to learn more
- People with cognitive disabilities in long-term care (LTC) facilities face a 60-90% risk of sexual violence; survivors often receive no advocacy
- DRW received a federal grant through the Department of Justice Office of Violence Against Women and started a pilot site in King County, training: disability advocates, ombudsman, and others to address sexual violence in LTC facilities.
- Developing co-referral model for enhanced recovery with King County LTC Ombudsman, ARC, King County Sexual Assault Resource Center
- Focusing on adult family homes in 2-year project; addressing institutional barriers for survivors of sexual assault.
- Long term goals: no sexual violence in LTC, raising awareness of sexual assault in LTC

**Guest: Natalia Koss Vallejo**

**NARAL Pro-Choice Washington**

*NARAL Field Organizer*

- Discussed national regulations of and potential threats to reproductive freedom in WA
- At national level: potential repeal of Roe v. Wade depending on Supreme Court Justice picks
- WA State law protects abortion (determined by vote of the people in 1970) & has special role to play as stewards of abortion access
- Possible repeal of Affordable Care Act: WA has state law that birth control is covered by insurance, but doesn't specify how much cost is passed onto patient. NARAL focused on giving law more teeth and keeping birth control at no-cost for patients
- 20-week abortion ban at national level would supersede state law
- State level: 2 anti-choice bills pre-filed by other groups (parental notification bill and eliminating tax payer funding for abortion services). NARAL moving forward with pregnancy accommodation bill (shifting to light duty, greater bathroom breaks); focusing on paid parental leave; pushing legislation for complete coverage of birth control
- Potential for partnership with Seattle Women's Commission to support safe access to health care and March 8<sup>th</sup> is NARAL Lobby Day! Want stories that are related to the bills.

**Guest: Faith Lumsden**

**Seattle Code Compliance Division**

- Tenant relocation ordinance: program for low income tenants being displaced by development. Takes 6 months to move through process, save money, potentially get assistance (money available for people at 50% or less of annual median income for household of their size, about 30% of population)
- All rental units registered with Seattle; currently 10% inspected yearly, going up to 15-20% in 2017 to ensure health and safety of living environments
- Rule passed to limit rent increases greater than 10% with the intention of pushing renters out for subsequent development (landlords trying to avoid relocation fees)
- Enforcement authority for raising rent without giving enough notice, landlords not giving notice to tenants for coming into unit, locking tenants out, etc.
- New ordinance passed by City Council that puts cap on move-in fees, allows payment of move-in fees in an installment plan, enforces requirements for returning deposits
- First in time registration delayed until July 1, 2017.
- Looking for events and organizations to partner with to get message out
- First in time registration delayed until July 1, 2017.

*Doula*

- Open Arms provides birth doula services: trained and certified professionals, birth educators, planning for pregnancy, and early childhood development
- Open Arms Doulas receive additional training on loss, breastfeeding, other things
- 2 programs:
  - 1 – birth doula services (100+ doulas speaking 17+ different languages) serving all clients who are under the federal poverty level
  - 2 – outreach birth doula program. Trained over 17 doulas in 10 weeks. Doulas stay with families until child turns 2. Supporting parents in connecting (bonding) with children, and promoting child growth & development with home visits.
- Currently taking referrals; doula services to any family that wants them, regardless of income
- Open Arms would like to get involved in policy development
- Email [Rokea@openarmsps.org](mailto:Rokea@openarmsps.org) for more information

*Brenda is Policy Manager at SOCR & Erica Pablo is with the Policy Division covering Fair Housing, Criminal Justice, and Gender Justice issues, and staffs the LGBT Commission*

- Source of income discrimination delay: law that pertains to subsidies and sources of alternative income is already in effect and being enforced since September 2016. First in time piece has been delayed (had been scheduled to go into effect January 1, 2017, which has not changed, but now won't be *enforced* until July 1, 2017)
  - 18-month evaluation period to see any unintended consequences on people with disabilities, people of color, other groups
  - Rules just posted and several public meetings held to develop rules.
  - Expect email about influencing draft proposal
- Analysis of criminal history in housing
  - Department level stage for policy development
- Increased bias incidents: harassment, hate speech, working with police and looking to put out campaign with hotline, website, and other ways to report incidents that are occurring
- Action plan based on report to optimize way SOCR works with boards & commissions. 3 goals:
  - Providing greater investment in commissions & boards as community resource
  - Connecting with Puget Sound Sage for resource development
  - Ensuring SOCR staff tracks policies occurring across city to bring Commissions in earlier in policy development
- Developing Code of Conduct & grievance procedures for Commissions (to ask someone to leave if they break code of conduct)
- Increased accessibility for commission involvement (transportation, child care, etc.) – joint commission to implement recommendations by end of the year
- Seeking feedback on report if anything is missing, should be changed