



City of Seattle

Tim Burgess, Mayor

Seattle Women's Commission

MINUTES

Seattle Women's Commission
Boards and Commissions Conference Room L280
600 Fourth Avenue, City Hall
Monday, September 18, 2017, 5:40 –7:30 p.m.

Commissioners Present: Idabelle Fosse, Michele Frix, Tracey Hutchinson-Whitten, Vivian Lee, Xochitl Maykovich, Min Pease, Priya Saxena, Erica Soelling, Ruchika Tulshyan

Commissioners Calling In: Tara Cookson, Teresa Springer

Commissioners Absent/Excused/Leave: Morgan Beach, Loida C. Erhard, Keisha Jackson, Rokea Jones, Jacquee Kurdas

Start time: 5:40PM

Announcements:

- Welcome 2 New Commissioners to the Seattle Women's Commission (SWC)
- New Mayor – Tim Burgess, whose City Council seat will be opened and an interim replacement will be appointed by the City Council
- Consider how we can advocate to the City Council to use the (currently ample) City Council budget to support survivors of childhood sexual abuse; consider reaching out to Danni Askini of Gender Justice League to discuss further, as Ms. Askini has been a leader in calling for this
 - Consider sending letter to the City Council regarding budget priorities for gender violence

Public Comment: none

Approval of minutes: 100% approval (11/16 Commission members voting)

Jeanette Williams Award Recap

T. Springer & R. Tulshyan

- Overall, event went smoothly
- One Commissioner believed it would have been nice to have more people given the space; another Commissioner stated it was well attended. Total turnout unknown currently, likely 20 or 30
- Good MCing by Keisha, program agenda, energy, food, space, and musicians
- Main takeaways:
 - Important to be able to include children in future events
 - 2 families with children were turned away
 - Would have been great to have more musician performers
 - Good to have members from other Commissions attending

SOCR and Mayoral Transition

I. Fosse & L. Othon

- Briefing Meeting held last week to discuss CM Herbold's idea of making SOCR an independent office (i.e. decoupling SOCR and the Mayor's Office)
 - Held by SOCR Director Patricia Lally
 - 5 Commissions invited, 4 Commissions represented at the meeting

- At the Civil Rights, Utilities, Economic Development, and Arts (CRUEDA) Committee meeting last week: CM Herbold invited a policy analyst from Central Staff to present research on the benefits of making SOCR an independent body
 - Per policy analyst, the 3 biggest areas where SOCR would be improved if an independent body:
 - Greater accountability for oversight of the Race and Social Justice Initiative (RSJI)
 - Enhanced power/breadth/reach of SOCR enforcement within other City Departments
 - SOCR's monitoring could be conducted in a more objective way and with greater authority [SOCR called upon last year to oversee homeless encampment sweeps to ensure that City Departments and Multi Agency Teams adhering to MDAR protocol (involved procedures prior to, during, and after sweeps)]
 - CRUEDA Committee members supportive of exploring this legislation per Loren Othon's analysis: CM Herbold, CM Gonzalez, CM Burgess, CM O'Brien
 - Important to consider impacts of proposed change on the power of SOCR
 - The City's Auditing Office was presented as an example of an independent body engaging with the Mayor, City Council, and city departments
 - Limits to this analogy:
 - 3 distinct areas of SOCR that are very different than Auditing Office:
 - RSJI
 - Enforcement Body
 - Policy

Mayoral Transition

X. Maykovich

- Loren Othon to call Wayne Barnett to discuss if the SWC can make a public comment on the City Council replacement (e.g. make a recommendation)
 - Important to consider the implications of the appointment of a person other than who the SWC recommends to the City Council

RSJI Training Needs

L. Othon

- The person who was supposed to be providing the RSJI training is vacating their post, however, Loren Othon will still investigate whether this person can perform the training
- Timeline: when we have a full Commission

New Commissioner Appointment Update

L. Othon

- Council appointees
 - CM Herbold wants to re-interview the people who the SWC recommended and will be interviewing a few additional people because she wants to have someone on the Commission from her district as there are currently no Commissioners or applicants from District 1
 - SWC recommended 3 people for Council appointment to SWC
- Mayoral appointments should be moving swiftly

Fall Retreat Discussion

T. Hutchinson-Whitten

- Would be ideal to have a facilitator for the whole retreat
- Co-Chair to send out a Doodle poll with potential dates
- Commissioner offered office space at Westlake for this meeting

Economic Evictions (CM Sawant) Presentation

CM Sawant Staff

- Unable to conduct because CM Sawant's staff member could not make it in time

6:50 PM

Adjourn