

## MINUTES

### Seattle Women's Commission

Boards and Commissions Conference Room L280

600 fourth Avenue, City Hall

Monday, December 17, 2018

**Commissioners Present:** Darya Farivar, Min Pease, Jamilah Williams, Tana Yasu, Angela Rae, Idabelle Fosse, Rhonda Carter, Tara Cookson, Lakeisha Jackson, Priya Saxena, Zoe True and Vivian Lee

**Commissioners Calling In:**

**Commissioners Absent/Excused/Leave:** Erica Soeling, Xochitl Maykovich, Ruchika Tulshyan, Diana Im, and Rokea Jones

**Commissioner Candidate absent:** Diya Khanna (will be appointed in January 2019)

**Guest Speakers:** Cilia Jurdy, Erin Dury Moore and Michelle Gonzalez

**Visitors:** Jackie Sauer, Kara Palmer, Jenee Jahn, Amanda Hohlfeld and Adam Schmid

**Public Comment:**

Adam Schmid, Operations Specialist  
Veterans & Human Services Levy (Veteran Seniors of King County). He discusses the following:

- Seeks input before making decisions and getting involved with levy
- Discusses 2019 RFP – Pathfinders of Veterans

**Announcements:** Idabelle announces:

- The judge has approved True Blood settlement
- There are a lot of bills coming forward in the legislature

**Minutes:** Approval of Minutes for November

Amendments to minutes:

- Diya Khanna has been appointed as a Commissioner
- First page of minutes, Darya's last name needs to be added
- Motion moved and seconded – minutes for November approved with amendments

## **Guest Speaker**

Michelle Gonzalez, Director of the Washington State Women's Commission

Background history:

- From Seattle and has a JD and MPA
- First in family to go to law school. Family is from southern CA
- Working at the UW, teaching in Public Administration
- Left to go to Olympia – following husband who is a judge in Olympia
- Current job: Director of the Seattle Women's Commission in Olympia
- Has 9 commissioners appointed by the Governor along with her position. They live in various locations. Each person has a unique background
- Website is [sswc.wa.gov](http://sswc.wa.gov).
- Q&A
- Human Rights Commission asked to have a separate model on sexual harassment policy to labor and industries.
- SSWC is currently looking at policy when it comes to the model sexual harassment policy
- Would like to do some collaboration with the Commission. Upcoming meetings will be in January on the 27<sup>th</sup> and again on March 23<sup>rd</sup>. Seattle Women's Commissions' Economic Opportunity subcommittee will plan to attend the meeting.

## **Guest Speakers**

Cilia Jurdy and Erin Dury Moore from West Seattle Helpline speak on the following:

- Homelessness report presentation to the SWC
- Eviction is the leading cause of homelessness
- Hit with 3-day notice and downward spiral
- Provide emergency help assistance in the amount of \$300 to help keep people in their home.
- Serve 5 zip codes and establish relationships with property owners and managers and work with them when things happen to people. They provide a local focus.

Services they provide:

- Emergency assistance
- Move in assistance – first and last and deposit assistance
- Collaborate with other organizations to get extra funding
- Transitional housing and moving in and to other areas
- Stats: 70 percent are women, African American and White women
- 6 months surveys after 6 months

## Eviction and Homelessness op-eds

- Zoe has a draft of the eviction and homelessness op ed and wants to get feedback – draft is passed out to everyone to give feedback on
- Each person will come with their ideas for the eviction and homelessness op ed at their next meeting.

## Subcommittee breakout

- Discuss and come back with your overarching goals and mission statements
- Each committee will report out and we will vote on whether to accept each committee work plan, area of focus, mission statement and vote on workplan

## Violence Prevention and Justice:

Broad, open and adaptable – the same from last year

Mission - to advocate for equitable policies and programs that prevent violence against women/sexual assault/domestic violence (VAW/SA/DV), increase access to quality and responsive services, and promote healthy and safe spaces and relationships for people who identify as women and/or gender nonconforming individuals by

- Advocating for police training and greater collaboration with/across criminal justice organizations and institutions;
- Advocating for continued funding and accessibility for DV/SA survivor support;
- Seeking ways to collaborate with other city stakeholders to combat/prevent sexual harassment and other malicious harassment;
- Driving public discourse and education around potential solutions with the public and elected officials about these issues; and
- Being responsive to city issues that arise within committee's established mission.

## Community Health and Wellness

- Mission statement Advocate and raise community awareness about maternal health issues, especially the maternal death rate for black women, and use our commission's resources to elevate community organizations already leading on this issue.

## Economic and Educational Opportunities (EEO)

- Passes out 2019 work plan and discusses its content

## Equitable Development

- Focus is the same as last year

Mission. To identify and address barriers to shelter and housing and to support safe, affordable, accessible housing and transit options for women and families in Seattle by:

1. Promote action through communications and outreach on recommendations from our research on evictions in Seattle with focus on the impacts on marginalized communities like elder women, youth, LGBTQ individuals, women of color, immigrant women, women with disabilities and gender non-conforming individuals;
2. Coordinate with transit leaders already to support women and families and gather information on transit-related issues of highest priority;
3. Be responsive to city issues that arise within committee's established mission.

### **Work Plan Discussion and Vote**

- Commissioners discuss style of usage of words and whether to change them.
- Motion is made and seconded to leave the "e" in women as opposed to using "x"

### **Gender Norms**

Commissioners present three options:

- Option 1: Remove the whole things – one yay
- Option 2: Change to: continuously work toward racial and gender equity – one yay
- Option 3: Change to: continuously work to dismantle racism and gender norms that perpetuate harm – 9 yays. Option 3 wins the vote 9 to 2.

### **Workplan Vote**

- Commissioner vote unanimously to approve their workplan

**SOCR Report:** Loren Othon

### **Reports on the following:**

- Mayor signed the ombud legislation related to Seattle Silence Breakers and IDT work. Office should be up and running at the end of February of 2019.
- Departments will no longer to doing their own investigations. They will exclusively be in SDHR with a Director of Investigations. It will be a group of 6 investigators handling harassment and misconduct. The department will be confidential, and its purpose is to help people navigate the system.
- Revision of personnel rules will be updated
- Snacks for January will be provided by Priya Saxena

**Adjourned**