



City of Seattle

Seattle LGBTQ Commission



Meeting Minutes

5.20.21 | 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Commissioners Present: Ryan Bush, DeAunte, Chris, Nathaniel, Byram Simpson, Latosha Correll, Manuel Venegas, Victor, Brett

Commissioners Absent: John, Jessi, Annabelle

SOCR Staff: Stephen Cuplin, Leo Segovia

Meeting Minutes recorded by: Stephen Cuplin

Guests: Nanette Toyoshima, Deepa Sivarajan, Andrew Ashiofu, Diondra Braswell, Raja Fouad, Alex Wycoff, T Adiseshan

Welcome and Introductions

Nanette Toyoshima to speak for SPEOG.

Brief delay while waiting for Quorum.

Public Open Comment

Approve Minutes and Agenda

Approved April's Minutes

Amended May's Agenda to include vote on Nanette's ask, moved up Deepa's Presentation.

Discussion/Minutes

6:38 – Nanette begins discussion. Elaborating on what SPEOG wants/needs, re-envisioning what SPEOG can and should do. Speaking on behalf of SPEOG being diverse, multilingual. Wants to go to Community Safety and Communications Center, where the new 911 dispatch will be. They want to be “repurposed” to respond to non-violent calls, or calls in which an armed response is not needed. Alleged that SDOT,

MO colluding to have SPEOG moved to SDOT rather than the new CSCC as is reportedly in process. Asking for support from the Commission for a new unarmed law enforcement branch that can focus on “low priority” calls.

DeAunte followed up with a request for the statement in writing – which is logged and can be redistributed.

Nanette followed up with opening herself up to questions, and wants to know what SLGBTQ issues exist and how they can intersect.

Byram thanks Nanette for speaking, follow up questions, asking for clarification on when questions should be asked – either now or in the future at a discussion time

Nanette thanks the Commission for receiving them, shares that she is no longer welcome at precincts. Clarifies that SPEO is not “sworn” officer, but would be at the new CSCC.

Steven Pray sought clarification on what Nanette is needing from the commission, what stops them from doing this now.

DeAunte Damper seeks clarification on what this looks like in the space of SLGBTQ asking for more officers, even if they’re in a different department.

Nanette clarifies that Parking Enforcement would not be more officers, but rather repurposing existing budget and personnel to other purposes.

Byram seeks clarification as to if CSCC is independent of SPD.

Nanette clarifies that 911 is being transferred out of SPD, and the hope is that SPEOG will transfer with them.

Byram expresses support of this idea.

Brett seeks clarification as to what SPEOG would be doing if they’re not able to arrest people

Nanette says they would be doing report taking, maybe ticket writing, respond to non-injurious car crashes.

Nanette reiterates that they’re looking for SPEOG to take a more active response in community, for nonviolent calls, and thanks SLGBTQ for their time.

Deepa speaks on the expansion of a forensic wing, and how that’s not aligned with the No New Prisons movement. Wants to end Coercive incarceration – reiteration of content of a letter that was circulated ahead of time. Wants to partner with SLGBTQ, SDC, is working with UW’s Student Disability Commission.

They want to end the usage of medical facilities to further incarceration, rather than their wellbeing – specifically, medical care so that an individual can stand trial and be sentenced to prison, rather than receive medical care with the intent to help them heal.

Voted to sign on to the letter unanimously.

Deepa thanks Commission for their time, invites everyone to the Teach-In.

Refresher of Community Norms with Victor

Alex gives presentation on healthcare policy as it relates to disparities brought about by race/gender identity, etc. Points out discrepancies between “best practices” as it relates to what evidence shows, and the lack of Community Based health care. Advocates for Commission to take an active stance to try and advance evidence based community practices for improved healthcare, particularly as it relates to those who are incarcerated youth, unhoused, and those with special needs. Reiterates that COVID has only exacerbated these things. Also speaks on the need to include those who are “invisible” to the general public, such as those who are unhoused.

Proposal: Build a statewide organization to address Systemic Racism collaboratively via Evidence Based Practices, and center the voices of QTBIPOC.

Dignity/Housing/Healthcare-not-Handcuffs

Byram asks Alex if they’re aware of “A Way Home Washington”, Alex responds that it’s not comprehensive enough and organizations are operating siloed. Wants to end the siloing to facilitate true comprehensive care.

Andrew voices support for Alex’s proposal and summarizes his personal and professional experience in the context of what Alex was explaining.

Motion to nominate Brett as a Co-Chair of the Social Media and Engagement Committee.

Brett inquires to the Commissioners-in-waiting if any of them would’ve liked to put their name in the nomination hat.

Unanimous approval of Brett as a new Co-Chair of the committee.

Byram reports out on advocating for the exclusion of SPD in any capacity at Pride. Victor recommends deferring discussion to next month after the Commission had some time to consider the proposal

Stephen gave brief update about 5-chair meeting

Byram gave highlights of a joint statement with SWC against anti-trans laws being passed nationally. Noted that similar proposals are frequently proposed in WA, even though they are very unlikely to move forward. Victor also recommends deferral of discussion and vote to June when DeAunte and Jessi will be present. Alex questions efficacy of statements, advocates for partnership with other organizations to maximize impact, effects.

Committee Reports

SOCR Report

MODVSA wants to collaborate

Hearings have been delayed till June 3rd, unfortunately.

Nona/someone will be in contact about headshots and bios in the near future.

Announcements & Reminders

(END 8:20)