**COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT COMMISSION**

**MINUTES**

April 16, 2018

6pm-8pm

Seattle City Hall, Room 370

**Commissioners present:** Alison Turner, Ben Mitchell, Bereket Kiros, Carol Redfield, Emily Kim, Felix Chang, Julie Pham, Patricia Akiyama, Sally Kinney, Sonj Basha**,** Thais Marbles **Commissioners not present:** Alex Hudson, Natalie Curtis
**Staff present:** Danielle Friedman

Opening

* Reviewed agenda and approved March meeting minutes and retreat notes.
* Commissioners participated in an icebreaker and have committed to doing one each meeting to get to know each other better and make sure everyone has a chance to say something.
* Jenna Franklin and Mark Mendez have stepped down from the commission.

**Action:**

It was suggested that we add the CIC guiding questions that were handed out at the retreat to the retreat minutes. Staff liaison will update and resend out to the group before posting.

Public Comment

Eva Ramirez works at Humana. She gives cooking classes with seniors at Iora clinic. Would like to partner with community gardens to get fresh vegetables.

Retreat Debrief

Did a go around and reflected on the March 31st retreat. Some topics that came up:

* Some commissioners said things to other commissioners that were hurtful. Please be mindful of intent vs. impact.
* Wish we are able to do the retreat sooner. Should have started by talking about our purpose.
* Started to get at hard work in the retreat but it was unfinished.
* I am grateful to be a part of this group. This is a great group of people. I learned a lot in the retreat and it was challenging.
* It is hard to lose Jenna. She brought a great perspective and she will be missed.
* It was hard to jump right into the racial equity training- usually they show videos to help us understand. Videos would have helped. They assumed that we knew a lot to begin.
* I had a feeling of disappointment, but it changed to gratitude.
* I liked the ground rule brought by the facilitator: Keep the power in the room. I would like to add that to our ground rules.
* It was very hard to do workplanning training after the racial equity training. Now we know for next time.
* Most times I feel drained and sad after meetings. I would like to feel positive after meetings. I hope it will get better.
* There will always be people coming and going. Some people may not feel like it is a good fit. Whomever is one this commission has to push the work forward and keep going. It is going to be a bit messy.
* It is very helpful to have a designated facilitator at our meetings.
* I feel like race and social justice needs to be part of the intake to be a commissioner on this commission. I feel that everyone who comes into this commission needs to have this perspective.
* We have to be risky with each other and be able to speak candidly with each other.
* To collaborate, our egos need to die, and we are all going through the grieving process. It was productive to go through this and this will make us stronger.
* The racial equity training felt like it could be very uniting because there was a lot of commonality in the group, but it seemed like the way it was presented clashed with an important value to this commission, inclusivity, and left people feeling bad.

Workgroup Break Out

* The commissioners split out into the 4 workgroups: Resources; Commission Charter; Relationship to city/feedback; Community Involvement Best Practices.
* The commissioners decided to work on a workplan:
	+ What is the purpose?
	+ What are the goals? For the next month, June, July, and December 2018?
	+ How will you know we are successful in achieving the goal?
* These workplans can change and evolve. The first couple of months may determine future work. Please plan accordingly by being more specific in the beginning and broader in the future.

**Action:**

Co-chairs will create a workplan template and send out to the group. Work groups will meet and fill out the template by the May meeting.

Announcements

* See staff liaison if you need a parking permit. You need a new one every calendar year.
* If you are a district appointee, you need to live in that district as a requirement of holding the position. Please notify the staff liaison if you move out of your district.
* ST3 (Sound Transit 3) is a big initiative to plan regional light rail that the city is taking on right now. This can have major effects on neighborhoods and communities. There are opportunities to attend briefings to learn more and provide feedback to Sound Transit as a commission. This would be to give feedback specifically on their outreach and engagement strategies. More information to come. Staff liaison will send invites to upcoming briefings.

Commissioner Roundtable

Commissioners went around and shared closing remarks. Ideas included:

* Briefings we have had in the past were unclear and confusing about how we should approach. Recommend (for ST3) that a representative go to a meeting and report back to the group and then we can figure out how we respond.
* We are making progress, but it will take time.
* I appreciate you all.
* Discomfort is necessary for growth, so we must be having a lot of growth.
* It is important to use our time wisely.
* Could we have reps from City council come every other month to hear what we are talking about?
* Communication is a key part in involvement.
* I wonder if I can really be a value to this group. I feel like a small-town kid in the big city.
* We should make sure that we follow through with the suggestions.

Next Meeting

May 21st- 6-8pm, Seattle City Hall