**Seattle Human Rights Commission**

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, March 2, 2017, 6:00–8:00 p.m.

City Hall - Boards and Commissions Room

**Commissioners Present:** Danielle Wallace, Bill Dow, Jeremy Wood, Pauline Alvarado, Tammy Morales, Lara Diaconu, Sarah Bishop, Lara Diaconu

**Commissioners Present by Phone:** Alice Serko

**Commissioners Absent:** Amy Huang, Ashley Miller, Edlira Kuka, Jonathan Nichols, Yasmin Christopher, Marcel Baugh

**SOCR Staff Present:** Marta Idowu

Welcome and Introductions

**Call to Order:** By Pauline Alvarado at 6:09 pm

**Public Comment:** None.

**Approval of Agenda:** Sarah moves to add conversation about police misconduct letter, Bill seconds, none opposed. Tammy moves to add conversation about income tax/Trump-proof Seattle discussions, Bill seconds, none oppose.

Pauline motions to approve agenda, Jeremy seconds, none opposed.

**Approval of Minutes:** Danielle moves to approve pending later found spelling/grammatical errors, Bill seconds, no opposed, no abstentions. Approved.

**SOCR update:** Brenda submitted the following by email:

Bias Hurts Campaign

We have launched the Bias Hurts Campaign which includes a hotline where people can report discriminatory harassment. The campaign also includes media (social media, print ads, transit ads and radio spots including with ethnic media) as well as bringing together community groups to discuss issues impacting their communities and how the City can proactively address. Thank you to all of you who sent in names of organizations to be included in that meeting. Patty will be sending out invitations to the meeting. I will be meeting with SPU next week to discuss their policy concerning private businesses that experience bias-related graffiti.

Fair Chance Housing

OCR presented our proposal that was based on stakeholder input, to the Mayor’s Executive Team in late February. Marcel and a few others from the stakeholder group will be sitting down with the Mayor in April so the Mayor can directly hear from them on this issue as we move this work forward. Thanks again to Marcel for his incredible work on this policy.

Source of Income Discrimination

Our Communications and Enforcement staff have been hard at work getting training and outreach out to renters and to landlords on the new laws. A media campaign has been launched including print ads to ensure the public is aware of their rights under the law.

Gender diversity training for front line City staff

Staff on our gender justice team are rolling out Understanding Gender Diversity to City front line staff to ensure understanding of what gender identity is and the kinds of issues transgender and gender non-confirming people experience when accessing gender segregated spaces.

**Appeals and Hearings Update:** Tammy offers to do March appeals contingent on it working with her schedule. Pauline also offers. We may need one more person to do it.

Hearings—three hearings in similar cases were consolidated over three days, person needs to be there for all three days.

April 18, Alice has already volunteered, Sarah also offers.

**Action items:**

**Renters’ Commission**

Bill proposes to support, says it would be good getting on the record, says he would support at least one seat for formerly or currently homeless.

Tammy wonders whether housing discrimination cases would move to them given that they would cover renting.

Jeremy supports Bill’s proposal, wonders how we can advocate for the commission to be more about housing insecurity.

Danielle supports increasing the number of commission-appointed seats, going with the structure that we support. Believes this would make it more independent.

Tammy suggests that we talk to Zachary, says that might be better than our commission advocating logistical changes to another commission. Danielle says this may give them a heads up about it being challenging.

Bill says that we might not have time to do much. Says he will talk to Councilmember Herbold about including some language of people from homelessness backgrounds.

Pauline motions to approve Bill’s suggestion of a letter in support, making the commission based on issues of housing access and equity, and emphasizing potential commission access for former and present people who are homeless.

**Executive Policy on responding to police conduct**

Jeremy explains the reasoning for doing this—that we need to be able to respond quickly and that there isn’t a policy currently in place.

Sarah wonders if we should change it to serious human rights issues, rather than just police violence.

Tammy says this will help speed things up.

Bill says that he supports the idea of it, but would like there to be some sort of waiting period. To get around OPMA issues, he would tentatively propose a 24 hour period and an opportunity to object.

Lara says she supports the idea of a short and sweet statement but that there should be a FYI to commissioners after the fact.

Sarah asks if it applies to federal actions, Jeremy says that as long as the injury occurs within the state it is fair game.

Jeremy moves to approve this policy (1) for policies that do not affect or relate to previous commission statements and (2) commission follows up with Sara O’Connor-Kriss. Sarah makes counter proposal.

Jeremy says that rather than having the commission assent to a statement, they’d send out an email to the whole group to get interested people. Pauline says we may need more time to figure out issues related to OPMA legality and policy decisions.

Sarah suggests that the we revert to the status quo and the bylaws until we can work this out.

Jeremy suggests that we take stance on (1) MI bomb threat, (2) shooting in Arlington, and (3) potential murder near Lake Stevens in the meantime. Pauline moves to approve. Sarah seconds. All approved, no abstentions.

**Framework for potential commission meetings in community spaces**

Jonathan is in the process of drafting a framework of commission-based community meetings in response to some concerns that were raised at the retreat about engaging with communities. He was not at the meeting, however.

**Follow up on youth jail tour**

Tammy explains that we have previously signed onto a letter against the jail, but now that permits are approved and construction is happening, question is whether we want to reengage on what is happening. Tammy says she does not know what we can do to try to stop it, but that we should do our due diligence before doing anything to see a tour.

Tammy asks whether we should stand in solidarity with the community groups who believe there should be no jail and the money should go to restorative justice programs. Jeremy says it would be helpful for us to speak with observation of the current site.

Lara asks whether we could speak with youth, Bill says no—privacy issue, Jeremy suggests that we may be able to talk to coalition groups who have previously incarcerated folk who may speak.

Danielle suggests we have somebody speak to the new facility plan. Jeremy asks whether we should invite to the commission meeting, Bill offers to dig up some previous presentations that are available online.

Tammy says that by the next meeting she will have a memo of issues, background, and something we might be able to work on to have a fuller conversation about the plan.

**Follow up on executive order response**

Jeremy proposed a wider community forum about executive orders and where folks would like the City to go differently or otherwise. There was buy-in at the Five Commission meeting but not a lot of follow up, not sure if that is different levels of buy in or different levels of commission engagement.

Bill says that popular anger has calmed down, we may wait until the next EO to strike while the iron is hot.

Danielle says that it may make sense to figure out how it would be a more valuable use of the communities’ time.

Sarah says that it has not calmed down and raids have occurred, warranting immediate action

Bill says that we should look to El Centro and other groups. Danielle says this is something we say a lot about being intentional, but that we need to work with other commissions.

Sarah says that she is going to the Washington Immigrant Solidarity meetings, but not all of them, and that there may be good switch-off. Danielle says she is interested in going.

**Daniel Ramirez Medina**

Sarah has been working on this. There was a court date on Monday and another next week.

Jeremy suggests a policy statement in support of DACA included, and a beefed up statement regarding the coercion element. Jeremy says that if we do support we should cite what we source from. Says we should also include human rights authorities.

Bill says we should couch the allegations of coercion to give ourselves some cover, says we should say “these allegations, if proven…”

Sarah moves to send letter with (1) support of DACA, (2) more info on allegations of gang affiliation, (3) HRC language, (4) press release, and (5) citation/grammatical edits. Jeremy seconds. All approve, none oppose or abstain.

**“Trump-Proof Seattle”**

Tammy speaks about the proposal, says it is a strategy for a city income tax. Says there is not a whole lot of talk about how the money would be spent, but there is talk about obvious housing crisis and transportation issues.

Jeremy and Lara suggest that we hear from people who are pushing the proposal.

Sarah asks about timeline, wondering when SHRC involvement would be most impactful, Tammy says the easiest thing to do was would be citizen initiative. Tammy suggests bringing in Katie Wilson at next meeting to provide more information and says she will check with her.

**Task Force Updates:**

Jeremy says not much of an update from CPR because they did not have a chance to meet.

Bill explains that ECOSOC is meeting with a woman from Seattle Public Libraries about their no-sleeping/exclusion policy and sharps disposals in libraries. Tammy explains the issues related to the Navigation Center, how the International District communities feel ignored. She says that the communities were perturbed by the way they were not included in the discussion about the Navigation Center being nearby. Tammy says she does not know how or if commission wants to navigate the Navigation Center, clarifies that the communities are not mad about the center itself, but by the lack of involvement.

Jeremy asks if new sharps disposals could include some sort of subtle direction to needle exchanges in the city. Bill said logistically might be difficult, but it is a good idea we should consider moving forward.

Lara suggests the ID would be a good place to hold one of our future meetings. Pauline suggests contacting friend from intern CEA, Tammy accepts.

Sarah explains that the Immigrant Rights taskforce followed up with some First Nations students about the street change proposal, but in the meantime the taskforce told the man that given the needs and capacity of the commission—could not take a stance at this time. Sarah says Duwamish issue is on hold.

Sarah says one thing they have been watching is SPS telling teachers to send ICE to SPS legal department if ICE comes to their schools. There is work trying to get other districts to do the same. Sarah wonders if a letter encouraging the UW to do the same would be a good idea. Sarah is going to connect with folks on the UW idea.

**Executive Team Update:**

Jeremy thanks people for quickly filling out the Doodle. Suggests afternoons of either the 12th or the 26th. Executive will reach out to facilitators and decide on one of those dates.

On commission expansion, Women’s Commission supports, LGBTQ commission kind of supports, Marta says that People with DisAbilities commission is also in support of the full proposal.

Danielle and Bill and Executive will talk offline about next steps. Jeremy moves, Pauline seconds, all in favor none opposed.

On commissioner development, we have one in the queue who may be approved, a pool of candidates on the Google Drive. Thinks that a return to that should go on the committee’s radar. Sarah suggest prioritizing the people who have been on the queue for a while, then put more recent applicants lower on the docket.

Pauline says intern will be starting this summer, will be dedicating 40 hours a week to commission work. She proposed that she is thinking about a larger research project about what she wants to do. Pauline will be administrative contact, but she will be available to attend task force meeting.

Bill asks what her particular policy interests are, she wants it to be based upon the needs of the city.

Sarah asks when she is here, Lara says all of July and half of August. Marta offers to ask her office about a space.

Danielle suggests that the task forces propose policy ideas.

**Jeremy motions to adjourn at 8:06pm, Bill seconds.**