



City of Seattle

Ed Murray, Mayor

Seattle Women's Commission

MINUTES

Seattle Women's Commission
Boards and Commissions Conference Room L280
600 Fourth Avenue, City Hall
Monday, May 19, 2014, 5:30 –7:30 p.m.

Commissioners Present: W.M. Gillihan, Alison Mondt, Bridgette Maryman, Maha Jahshan, Lylia Allala, Jaron Reed, Clarissa Lord Brundage, Nicki Olivier, Elsa Batres-Boni, Betsy McConnell Gutierrez, Jennifer Cobb and Tracey Whitten

Commissioners Present via Conference Call: Mercedes Elizalde, Michele Frix

Commissioners Absent/Excused/Leave: Phyllis Lewis, Mergitu Argo, Roslyn Kagy, Morgan Beach, Susana Tat

Guests: Alex Zimmerman, Patty Lally, Patrice Carol

Public comment:

- Alex Zimmerman comments the continued lack of questions for him from the Commission.

Strategic Efforts as a Commission – Patty Lally, Director of SOCR

- Director Lally congratulates the WC on its work on gender equity issues and the food desert project.
- Advises that the Commission be careful in deciding whether to sign off on or support issues, and to make sure that we are focusing on policy issues, rather than the personal interests of Commissioners. Commissioners should feel free to contact SOCR when deciding whether or not to support a resolution, sign off on a letter of support, etc. SOCR is willing to help the WC to draft and edit letters, resolutions, or other documents when we want to take the lead on issues.
- SOCR may already have policy memos drafted on topics we are considering taking a stand on, or may have information about where Council Members or the Mayor stand on certain issues. They are also happy to help us find information around topics of interest.
- Wendy: WC has been working with SOCR to develop a letter to reestablish our commitment to the racial equity toolkit. LGBT, Disabilities, and likely the Immigrant and Refugee Commissions are signing off on it as well.
- Patty recommends reaching out to new police chief as soon as she is confirmed.

Co-Chair Nominations

- Mercedes Elizalde nominates Michele Frix.

- Michele Frix nominates Mercedes Elizalde.
- Mercedes Elizalde also nominates Liz Kellogg.
- The Commission will vote on the nominations during next month's meeting.
- The Chair positions for the Domestic Violence and Economic Opportunities Subcommittees are open as well.

Seattle 2035 Presentation and Q&A - Patrice Carol

- 20-year vision, guides growth and city investments and protects regional resources (required by the Growth Management Act)
- "Urban village" strategy – focusing growth in designated places, including urban centers with high density, access to transit, and employment (ex: downtown); hub urban villages (ex: Ballard, Lake City, with a mix of residential and commercial); residential urban villages (mostly residential, not much employment); and manufacturing and industrial centers (almost exclusively employment-focused)
- Comprehensive Plan is statutory, so it carries more legal weight than other strategic plans (ex: Bicycle Master Plan, Transit Master Plan)
- Technical analysis of different potential patterns of growth through October 2014, followed by review and public discussion in December. The Mayor will make his recommendations in February and City Council is set to adopt plan June 2015. Public input to be solicited throughout.
- Looking for organizations to be outreach partners and commit to share information about the process and engage their members in attending public events, completing surveys, or otherwise sharing their comments.
- Maha comments on how important it is to engage youth in this discussion and asks about plans for youth outreach and making the information accessible to youth. Outreach to immigrant communities important as well.
 - Patrice: Hoping to work with the Youth Commission, have already met with Puget Sound Off as well. Also want to reach out to diverse audiences, since the city is becoming much more diverse over the next 20 years.
 - DON has recommended having small group meetings in immigrant communities and also using POELs to help facilitate their participation in larger city-wide meetings.
- Bridget comments about the importance of transportation issues being addressed, including transportation issues specific to women.
- Clarissa asks about the biggest issues coming up in open houses and outreach. Patrice says that affordable housing and transit are some of the biggest, and that there is anxiety for many commenters around the high level of change over the last few years in terms of development.
- June 24: interactive presentation at Seattle Center with stations, opportunities for people to participate in polls, etc.

Speaker from Tenant's Union unable to attend

Debrief from meeting with CM Harrell – Jaron Reed

- Background: Ban-the-box initiative for employment (preventing employers from using criminal background to immediately disqualify an applicant) went forward and became law, but the housing aspect of it has stalled.
- CM Harrell is supportive of introducing legislation expanding it to housing, and CM O'Brien may want to introduce it as well

- CM Harrell also shared his interest in supporting young women in breaking into the world of business and possibly supporting an event focused on this

Update from Housing and Homelessness Subcommittee – Alison Mondri

- Have been looking at the possibility of ban-the-box legislation around housing – exploring ways this may work
- Making connections with service providers in the community about their perspectives on where there may be gaps in terms of shelter, transitional, and permanent housing
- Specific work plan item around the Fair Tenant Screening Act – informing women and families about their rights and what recourse is available if they feel that their rights have been violated
- “Super committee” of housing and homelessness subcommittees from across various Commissions (I&R, Human Rights, LGBT) met several weeks ago to look for areas of shared interest/overlap
 - Ex: Availability of shelter and housing for families (especially larger families); sensitivity and availability of services for members of the LGBT community who are homeless
 - Considering putting together a joint letter to express concern about need for additional shelter services and affordable housing

Potential for collaboration with LGBT Commission

- June 1, 11am: 2nd annual Flag-raising event to commemorate opening of Pride month, and the LGBT Chair has asked whether anyone from the WC would like to be present for that ceremony.
- June 29 – Seattle Pride Festival. Commissioners who would like to walk can get a t-shirt – just give Marta your size.

SOCR Update – Lauren Orton

- 29 new charges in month of April; closed 20. Much higher level than usual.
- City Council votes tomorrow on Gender Equity Resolution.
 - A listening session with Mayor’s Office, CM Godden, and Task Force members coming up soon. Next session will likely be with Women’s Commission.
- Working on letter of support re: racial and gender equity – LGBT Commission would like to sign off as well and asked that gender identity be added, so we’re working on adding that in.

Jeanette Williams Award – seeking nominations (can be a person or an organization)

- Focused this year on gender equity
- Elsa suggests that we create a more scripted form to send out to community groups/organization requesting nominations
- Wendy is working on how to shape the event during which the award will be given

Meeting **adjourned at 7:10p**

NEXT COMMISSION MEETING: June 16, 2014 Boards and Commissions Conference Room L280

FIVE COMMISSION MEETINGS:
5:30 PM, 810 Third Avenue, Suite 750, Seattle, WA.

August 13, 2014
November 12, 2014