

**March 19th, 2020**  
**Commission for People with DisAbilities**  
Meeting Notes  
03/19/20 4:00pm - 6:00pm  
Zoom Conference Call

**Commission Members Present:**

- Via Phone: ChrisTiana ObeySumner, Kristina Sawyckyj, Jayson Morris, Eric Scheir, Hannah Wilson, Khazm Kogita, Kaitlin Skilton (pending commissioner), Anquida Adams.
- Absent:
- Unexcused Absence:
- Excused Absence: Jessica Williams-Hall

Guests: Stefan Winkler (SDOT – Program Manager), Elizabeth Ralston (Seattle King County Cultural Accessibility Consortium - Founder).

OCR: Janet Stafford

Facilitators: Maralise Hood-Quan, Antasia Williams

**Meeting Called to Order at 4:05pm**

## **Meeting Norms**

- . Collectively decided norms which were to speak slowly and state your name before speaking.

## **Announcements & Public Comment**

- . Commission might receive an email about organizing to ensure people with disabilities are heard around issues of Covid-19; presently and follow up actions.
- . People of Color Sex Workers Outreach Project (POC SWOP): Two years ago, disability commission + LGBTQ commission signed a letter of support that fought discrimination against sex workers. Pax engages harm reduction and outreach for street-based workers, sex workers, and they have been working with the distillery to create hand sanitizer and other sort of protective things, especially for disabled sex workers, of which there is a lot. They are looking for any sort of support from the commission.
  - o Emails need to be sent to individual members as well as the listserv.

- The email about this request will be condensed into one digest.
- Hannah is working to create accessibility with a farm in the Central District. They are trying to develop an accessible day where people with disabilities can come out and enjoy being outside, and maybe get some free produce, and learn how to plant small potted plants. This effort will hopefully be done in partnership with the Commission. The event is tentatively set for this summer.

## **Public Comment**

- Elizabeth is interested in learning more about the commission and has a Public Health background. Was asked to write a blog post by public health about resources for people with disabilities. She is concerned about the communication, or lack thereof, with the disability community. A lot of communities are isolated and can't get what they need, like the deafblind community because they rely on their hands to communicate with others, and tactile senses.

- At a later time, Elizabeth would like to talk about the work of the consortium after the virus settles – the artist community is being highly impacted financially at this time.

## **Approval of the Minutes**

- November; minutes approved and read
- February; minutes approved and read
  - Without communication, your absence is unexcused.
  - Correction; Eric, Jayson, ChrisTiana, Khazm, Anquida, should be excused absence

## **Seattle Office for Civil Rights Report**

- The commission team is still working on trainings for 2020 regarding budget, OPMI, RSJI, and public disclosure. This process is delayed due to Covid-19. We are requesting dates that work best via email - we hope to get best feedback possible.
- OCR has temporarily closed the office and staff working remotely. Please let Janet know if anyone is looking to reach OCR and is unable.

- . OCR working closely with the Mayor's Office and City Council to get updates on commission status. We are working to get an update soon. Please look out for the email.
  
- . Budget update: Current balance is \$2,000
  - The budget is usually spent on Jubilee, events, awards, co-sponsor requests, ADA annual event. Printing and advertising is paid by OCR.
  
- . Last month there was a request brought by the Women's commission for 5 commission meet and greet. OCR covered the cost of \$200. There is no longer a balance.
  
- . Commissioners would like to know if OCR is doing anything in response to Covid-19 and how the commission can support, and also if OCR can support and help the disabled community.
  
- . OCR reported that they are working with the Mayor's office and are engaging outreach about current grant opportunities for those in need

(small business, etc). OCR should have some updates by early next week; they hope to get the information out the commission.

- Commissioners would like to know if OCR needs anything from them to push the needle on Covid-19 support.
- Commissioner requested that OCR provided trainings be provided via zoom.
- All Seattle press news conferences on TV are accessible to people who are deaf or hard of hearing, as well as those who have speech impediments as closed captioning and interpreters are provided.
- Some television programs are not closed-caption. Speaking with other disabled communities – I've asked if they are able to get the information they need. The deaf community feels like we are getting the info we need. Are other communities getting info? What can we do to improve information sharing?

- What is the city's plan of action for engaging those experiencing homelessness which is the highest population of disabled individuals?

## **COVID-19 Resources Commissioners know of**

- Seattle Foundation's Covid-19 Response Fund: The COVID-19 Response Fund is rapidly deploying resources to community-based organizations that are supporting local workers and families most affected by the coronavirus crisis.
- NWFL COVID-19 Resource List: Spreadsheet that includes financial resources, advocacy and mutual aid, informational, for families, and regional.
- COVID-19 / Corona Virus; Mutual Aid Solidarity Network; Seattle area COVID-19 "Request Support" Form
- Google Drive Resource List:
- COVID-19 and Free Lance Artist: This list is specifically designed to serve freelance artists,

and those interested in supporting the independent artist community. This includes, but is not limited to, actors, designers, producers, technicians, stage managers, musicians, composers, choreographers, visual artists, filmmakers, craft artists, teaching artists, dancers, writers & playwrights, photographers, etc.

- What this list IS: an aggregated list of FREE resources, opportunities, and financial relief options available to artists of all disciplines.
  - What this list IS NOT: a place to promote individual artist practices (we love you, but we're not equipped for that); a place to promote fee for service work; or a place to seek direct emergency funding.
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- Restaurants can request a loading zone near their establishment by emailing [Road@seattle.gov](mailto:Road@seattle.gov) or calling (206) 684-ROAD.

## **COVID-19 Informational Resources**

- [5 Things To Know About Coronavirus And People With Disabilities](#)



- 'Real people won't die': Rhetoric around who is at risk of coronavirus infection sparks debate over ageism, ableism
- TAIT: Disability and COVID-19
- Half Assed Disabled Prepper Tips for Preparing for a Coronavirus Quarantine: March 9, 2020, edited March 10, 2020. By Leah Piepzna-Samarasinha. [brownstargirlnew@gmail.com](mailto:brownstargirlnew@gmail.com) [Brownstargirl.org](http://Brownstargirl.org), [facebook.com/leahlps](https://facebook.com/leahlps).
- Collective Care Is Our Best Weapon against COVID-19
- Jayson - I am proud of how my neighbors in District 7 have come together in common cause during the COVID-19 crisis. Personally sent out 200 emails to people with disabilities and retired – offered to help. They have my contact info (Jayson)
- The City will pause the removal of encampments unless they present a significant barrier to access sidewalks or other public rights of way, and are extraordinary public safety hazards.

- . The City's Navigation Team will focus on connecting individuals who are at risk of contracting COVID-19 with essential medical services. Removal of waste, garbage, and debris from unmanaged encampments will remain a priority in their function, as will the distribution of hygiene kits to people currently living in those encampments.

## **Concerns / What's missing**

- . What is the strategy to engage the disabled community?
- . Disability Justice requires collective access and sustainability.
- . Disabled people who are at-risk are being told to shelter in place. As a result, they are unable to get prescriptions, food, etc... especially if they don't have natural supports.
- . Folks who do not qualify for services and interventions that are being provided; moratorium on rent based evictions, does not include just

cause; cannot quarantine because have roommates.

- Employees and people who are on fixed income do extra work to bring in income. As independent contractors, artist, interpreters, we are losing money.
- Shelter for people with Disabilities.
- Main concern is making sure people have the medical supplies that they need such as gloves, sanitizer, such as rubbing alcohol, and supply delivery. a concern that a friend brought up to me is the over use of latex gloves and the residue left on other items causing allergic reactions

### **April Council Presentation of Workplan (Feedback on draft document)**

- Disability Justice should replace intersectionality section / committee. - Kristina will work on this, Anquida offered to help.

- Consider changing this to a 3-year plan as opposed to two years to give adequate space for Covid-19.
- Lacks deliverables, doesn't feel like a workplan.
- Likes flexible nature of the document.

## **Jubilee Decisions**

### **ADA 30: Sponsorship, Tabling Plan, Commission Participation**

Hold on ADA planning because it is believed that it is canceled due to the Corona Virus. An email was sent to Holly and it came back via an automatic message saying she is out of the office for a month.

Decided to hold off on moving forward with planning until we find out for sure.

### **Guest Speaker: Stefan Winkler, SDOT**

- Scooter Share – with Covid-19 not projecting launch dates. Intention was to launch sometime in June. Right now SDOT is in the middle of a SEPA (State Environmental Protection Act)

appeal. It's about a review SDOT did of the impact of scooters on the environment. They expect the appeal to be complete by mid-April.

- Scooters will be both seated and standing, to address issue of accessibility. They will write a permit to ensure the seated scooters are available. They would like to provide an option that people can sit on and move without any sort of manual motor, just by complete throttle.
- Scooters will not be allowed to ride on the sidewalk; they will ride in bike lanes and in the street on multiuse paths.
- Speed has been lowered to 25 miles per hour throughout the city to ensure safety.
- Parking – parking bikes were still causing issues; mobility and sight. Up to this point SDOT has tried to take a hands-off educational approach. The situation has improved but there are still too many issues. Moving forward, when riders do not park correctly, they will be fined. When bikes are parked, they are required to take

a picture of it. We will fine riders through the vendors. It's a recommendation they will put in permits.

- . SDOT will also create more areas where parking is not allowed and will be requiring bikes and scooters have a way to report obstructions, even if they don't have the app. We have developed a find it, fix it app and phone number. All you have to do is give the approximate location and vendor name. If you are blind or hard of seeing we are now requiring braille in a consistent location, on all devices.

## **Co-sponsoring 5 Commission Meet & Greet with City Council**

Last month there was a request brought by the Women's commission for 5 commission meet and greet. OCR covered the cost of \$200. There is no longer a balance.

## **Jubilee Decisions**

## **Recruitment of New Commissioners**

# **Review of Retreat Work Product and Define 2020 Plan**

**Meeting Adjourned at 6:05pm\_\_\_\_\_**

## **Action Items**

### April Council Presentation of Workplan

- . Disability Justice should replace intersectionality section / committee. - Kristina will work on this, Anquida offered to help.
- . Send out PDF about Zoom functions.
- . How to utilize social media to spread the word about resources.

## **Future Agenda Items**

- . City's response to Covid-19
- . Applying DisAbility Justice in the Commission (our norms, how we go about doing work, and the work we choose to engage).
- . Access to disaster preparedness for all people with disAbilities
- . Jubilee Decisions: accelerate our planning, consider facilitating Jubilee via Zoom.
- . Outreach via alternative means

- How to utilize social media to spread the word about resources.
- Committee for Outreach and discussing goals
- Recruitment of new commissioners
- Review of Retreat work product and define 2020 plan