



City of Seattle



Meeting Minutes

Thursday, July 18, 2019 | 6:30 – 8:30 PM

Seattle City Hall, Boards & Commissions Conference Room L-280

600 4th Avenue, Seattle Washington

Commissioners Present: Latosha Correll, Michael Garrett, Jessi Murray, Sabel Roizen, Byram Simpson, Deepa Sivarajan, Joseph Suttner, Kari Lerum, and Manuel Venegas

Commissioners Absent: Chris Brown, Alejandro Castillo, Wayne Rocque, and Katrina Sanford

SOCR Staff: Janet Stafford

Meeting Minutes recorded by: Deepa Sivarajan

Guests: Oscar Cerda (SOCR), Catherine Cornwall (City Budget Office), Nate Omdal (Seattle Music Commission), Julia Ricciardi (former Seattle LGBTQ Commission co-chair)

Welcome and Introductions

Public Open Comment

1. No public open comment.

Approve July Agenda and June Minutes

1. Motion to approve July agenda with below edits. **Motion passes (100%)**
 - a. Change all sections assigned to either Katrina or Byram to Jessi
 - b. Add item on Police Accountability after Committee Reports
 - c. Add item on forum in August before Committee Reports
2. Holding off on approving June minutes until next meeting.

City Budget Office Presentation

1. City Budget Office (CBO) overview from Catherine Cornwall
2. 2019 Adopted Budget is \$5.9B, includes:

- a. \$2.8B for utilities (SPU and SCL), is ratepayer money that can only be used for this
 - b. \$1.3M is general fund budget, supports administration, transportation, arts, culture & recreation, health & human services, neighborhoods and development, public safety
 - i. These departments also funded by a number of other sources
- 3. Top three revenue sources are property taxes, sales taxes, and B&O taxes
- 4. Biggest proportion of property taxes go to schools (both Seattle schools and state schools), then to City
 - a. Within City, almost half goes to general fund, then to Move Seattle (transportation), Seattle Metropolitan Park District
- 5. Reason we have so many levies is because in the 1990s, Tim Eyman's first initiative capped the amount property taxes can grow
 - a. All levies except for the Seattle Metropolitan Park District have to be renewed; most commonly are for seven years
- 6. City Budget Office's role:
 - a. Manage annual budget process
 - i. Includes providing guidance and support to departments, Mayor's Office (MO), and Council
 - b. Manage quarterly supplemental budget process
 - i. Evaluate emerging issues and respond to revenue changes
 - c. Manage revenue forecast
- 7. Annual budget process (required to have a balanced process)
 - a. Q1 – Q2 (Feb – May): Baseline budget process – includes revenue forecasts, wage increases, inflation, one-time items
 - b. Q2 – Q3 (June – August): Executive budget process – working with departments on submittals and with MO on making a proposal
 - c. Q3 – Q4 (September – November): Council budget process – Council reviews, public participation, revenue update, and then legislation
- 8. Opportunities to engage
 - a. Work with departments year-round – especially in winter and spring
 - b. Write, call, or schedule time with MO – particularly between May and July
 - c. Write, call, or schedule time with CMs – particularly between August and October
 - d. Participate in public commentary during budget hearings in October and November
- 9. Questions and comments from commissioners:
 - a. Latosha Correll: Are the Mayor's budget priorities listed somewhere that public can access?
 - i. We are currently in second-year of budget so MO is encouraging departments to look within and rearrange priorities as much as possible; generally Mayor's goals are towards youth, education, etc
 - b. Latosha Correll: Is it too late, after revenue forecasts are made, to ask for more money for a specific department?
 - i. Never too late, but there are times when it's more strategic. Revenue forecasts are updated every month, but checked again in.
 - c. Jessi Murray: Can you speak a little to what's happening with the soda tax right now?
 - i. When Council adopted 2018 budget, made assumptions about revenue from head tax. Since head tax did not pass, the choice was to either not have those homelessness services, cut existing services to save money, or implement a soda tax. In 2019, got more info on how much soda we actually drink in Seattle, and MO proposed that in the budget. Council did not like it, but adopted budget with it. Council has now requested that we move back on that, but have not said where the money should come from to replace the tax.

- d. Michael Garrett: If departments got federal grants, would they show up under “government/private grants” in general fund revenue pie chart? That’s only \$45.2M, which seems low.
 - i. Funds for transportation or housing would not show up here, but things like grants given to SOCR would.
- e. Jessi Murray/Latosha Correll: If we have an ask that is in the range of thousands of dollars, e.g. for an QTBIPOC survey, would that be worth making?

Sports Taxes

1. Overview by Nate Omdal, organizer for American Federation of Musicians and commissioner on Seattle Music Commission
2. Last year, King County Council decided to award money from hotel tax in order of \$135M to Mariners (or T-Mobile, unclear where the lines are)
3. Only agreement was that they had to work with King County Labor Tax on staffing at T-Mobile Park
4. As part of Music Commission, Nate has been keeping an eye on the admissions tax (which is charged as part of ticket price to a series of venues, including stadiums), and wanted to know whether Mariners are paying the admissions tax
5. Has met with CM Herbold’s office, Randy Angstrom at the Office of Economic Development, former head of Arts Commission, and more, but no one knows if Mariners are paying
 - a. According to CM Herbold’s office, it’s possible that Mariners do pay the tax, but the money is given to County and is given right back to the Mariners
6. If that is the case, there’s no guarantee that the women’s sports teams are given the same windfall
7. Has requested a full audit by CM Herbold’s office of the admissions tax
8. Ask is for LGBTQ Commission to support this via a letter to CM Herbold to find out whether this tax is being levied equitably
9. Comments from Julia Ricciardi (former LGBTQ Commission co-chair): understanding seems to be that admissions tax is intended to fund arts and culture; if there is a gender disparity towards women’s teams, is even more egregious
 - a. From a labor standpoint, need for the money to be used to make sure venues are safe for worker, including artists and vendors, which can include queer and trans people who already face issues of safety at venues, etc
10. Questions and comments from commissioners:
 - a. Jessi Murray: Recommendation to reach out to Seattle Women’s Commission as well
 - b. Byram Simpson: Since the tax is included in ticket prices, are the Mariner’s collecting the money from the tax and just not paying it?
 - i. We believe that the Mariners are paying the tax, but that the money is being turned around and given right back to them
11. Motion to send a letter to Councilmember Herbold requesting an audit to gather information the admission tax administration. **Motion passes (100%)**

Seattle Office of Civil Rights (SOCR) Report

1. SOCR report from Oscar Cerda, Deputy Director of SOCR
2. New commission structure: 2 liaisons are now assigned to support the commission, with Janet Stafford joining LGBTQ Commission
 - a. Part of pilot project that has funding to take this forward for the next six months and will evaluate at that time
 - b. If continuing, would make budget request to CBO

3. RSJI training is coming up: two sessions, one on August 17 and one on August 24
4. Updates on roller derby: there was a conversation between roller derby advocates and Parks director, with another meeting upcoming on August 24
 - a. Willingness to speak about it – part of the problem is that initial conversation was held at the site-specific level, but director would also like to use this opportunity to engage all of the leagues to know what it is that the Seattle Parks & Recreation (SPR) can develop this department-wide
5. Conversation with Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) with Seattle Women’s Commission about how menstrual products were labeled – has also gone well, SPU has already changed their language!
 - a. Kari Lerum to forward email on the results to the rest of the commission
6. Questions and comments on commissioners:
 - a. Manuel Venegas: Have other commissioners signed up yet?
 - i. Oscar Cerda: Not sure of who all has signed up at this point.
 - b. Kari Lerum: If I’ve taken the training before, should I take it again?
 - i. Oscar Cerda: It is your decision – some people have said that it is useful to take it again.
 - c. Kari Lerum: Do you keep track of who has taken the training?
 - i. Oscar Cerda: We do take attendance but I don’t know if we track it.
 - d. Kari Lerum: Who is invited to participate?
 - i. Oscar Cerda: Current commissioners are invited. We have been asked by the Commission for People with disAbilities if people who are not yet commissioners can participate, and we are considering that.
 - e. Latosha Correll: Since prospective new commissioners often have a delay in being confirmed, I agree that it would be great if you could let non-commissioners participate to give them something to do while they wait for appointment.
 - i. Oscar Cerda: We’ll take that into account. We’re also thinking about doing this on a quarterly basis, not just when requested, and of expanding the curriculum to talk more about intersectionality and institutionalized racism.
 - f. Michael Garrett: Our newest workplan is not yet on our website – can that both be updated and send around to commissioners?
 - i. Janet Stafford: Yes, I’ll work with our communications person to get that online.

August Forum on Rights of Sex Workers

1. Update from Kari Lerum on the August forum on the police raids of Asian massage parlors
 - a. Co-sponsors for event are Coalition for Rights and Safety of for People in the Sex Trade, API Chaya, SWOP-Seattle
2. Previously had concerns about the budget of \$150 for security – is that something Commission can pay?
 - a. Tabling this conversation while we figure out how much we have spent this year.

Committee Reports

1. POC Stakeholders Committee: Investigating doing a needs assessment of QTBIPOC individuals in Seattle
 - a. Committee members to bring examples of other similar surveys to consider
 - b. Questions and comments from commissioners:
 - i. Kari Lerum: Recommendation to choose larger buckets of topics to talk about before crafting questions.
 - ii. Kari Lerum: What is the purpose of this survey? What will the results be used for?

1. Latosha Correll: The City's last needs assessment on the LGBTQ+ community was ten years ago and skewed very white, and that's the data that the City is still using to make decisions.
- iii. Kari Lerum: Are you doing any work around the 2020 census?
 1. Latosha Correll: We've talked a little about it but not yet.
 - a. Jessi Murray: I have a connection there and will connect you. Still have a different need than the census, but worth exploring.
- iv. Kari Lerum: Can we bring in some of the other groups that are working on this?
 1. Manuel Venegas: That work should be happening at the committee level.
2. Community Engagement: Looking into venues for community meetings – hard to find places outside of the downtown core that are free
 - a. Options include The Riveter or Seattle Counseling Services in Capitol Hill, a space in West Seattle, a space in South Lake Union
 - i. Questions and comments from commissioners:
 1. Jessi Murray: Could put on our social media to ask for suggestions, or see if any libraries have conference rooms that could host us
3. Commission Operations:
 - a. We've emailed around the onboarding document – please send comments!
 - b. Chris leading the effort to plan an event for prospective new commissioners in August – will contact Social Media & Communications Committee and Community Engagement committee to discuss
 - c. Need to discuss whether we're officially ready to begin recruitment
4. Social Media & Communications:
 - a. Reminder that if you have any updates to share publicly, please send Joseph Suttner an email with the information
 - b. Sabel Roizen is working on two videos: have shot one with Aleksa Manila, and working on script for video with Fred from Gay City

Police Accountability

1. Seattle Police Department (SPD) is under a consent decree; judge has recently ruled that they are partially out of compliance on accountability
2. MO has hired a consulting firm, 21CP Solutions LLC, that is largely all former law enforcement officers, to figure out what next steps have be
3. CMs Gonzalez, Mosqueda, and Herbold signed a letters saying this was not acceptable, and CM Gonzalez gave a press conference on Monday
4. Dominique Stephens from MO has requested we engage with the consulting company
5. Manuel Venegas attended second meeting with the consulting company with the Seattle Police Commission
6. Consulting company was court-ordered by Judge Robar; City is conducting the outreach
7. Councilmembers don't want to reopen the contract in general but look at the parts of the contract around accountability
8. Next meeting between Seattle Police Commission and 21CP Solutions LLC is August 15

Encampment Removals

1. Encampment removals have gone up drastically this year – 93 so far in 2019, and many without notice

2. Motion to re-approve agenda including vote in Encampment Removals section, and removing Other venues for public meetings as a topic. **Motion passes (100%)**
3. Motion to send a letter in support of CM Herbold's concerns about encampment removals. **Motion passes (100%)**

Announcements, Reminders, & Roll Call for Next Meeting

1. No announcements.

(END 8:34)