



City of Seattle



Meeting Minutes

Thursday, July 16, 2020 | 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Virtual Meeting via WebEx

Commissioners Present: John Rodriguez, Victor Loo, Nate Higby, Joseph Suttner, Jessi Murray, Latosha Correll, Annabelle Backman, Michael Garrett, Chris Brown, Manuel Venegas, Kari Lerum

Commissioners Absent: Byram Simpson

SOCR Staff: Janet Stafford, Caedmon Cahill, Mariko Lockhart

Meeting Minutes recorded by: Chris Brown

Guests: Julia Ricciardi, John Hammer, Emi Koyama, Brett Pepowski

Welcome and Introductions

1. The Seattle LGBTQ Commission is opening the space in the agenda to discuss community views on the pressing topic of the Mayor's actions throughout the Black Lives Matter protests

Public Comment

1. Julia Ricciardi: Julia sent a request to the Seattle LGBTQ Commission to support the demands of King County Equity Now, call to defund SPD by 50%, and call for the resignation of Mayor Jenny Durkan
2. Emi Koyama: Emi is in agreement with Julia, but highlights the pink-washing tactic being used against the Capitol Hill Organized Protest (CHOP). June 22nd press conference after the first death was used to declare that anti-LGBTQ graffiti was found throughout CHOP, but organizers were not able to find such graffiti. This tactic pits communities against each other and fails to protect black and LGBTQ people

Approve April and June Minutes and July Agenda

1. Motion to approve April minutes. **Motion passes (100%)**
2. Motion to approve June minutes with following edits. **Motion passes (100%)**
 - a. Yazi is a prospective Get Engaged member
 - b. Update section on Seattle IT to read “discussion of incompatibilities for mobile devices”
3. Motion to approve July agenda with following edits. **Motion passes (100%)**
 - a. Add discussion and possible vote regarding signing onto existing letters brought up in public comment.

Committee Reports

1. POC Stakeholders Committee (Report by Latosha Correll and Victor Loo)
 - a. Alphabet Alliance of Color is meeting on July 22 from 5:30-8:30 p.m. if anyone is available to join
 - b. Victor Loo connected with South King County on trying to do home kit testing for COVID-19 and will report more when the Commission meets again
2. Commission Operations (Report by Chris Brown)
 - a. What would commissioners like to get out of the retreat this year?
3. Social Media Committee
 - a. Working on misgendering in Spanish subtitling and English closed captioning for videos
 - b. Entre Hermanos and Somos have put out the video with Justice Helen Whitener
 - c. Conversation with Love Diaz will be on social
 - d. Share video stories from POC including commissioners
4. Community Engagement Committee (Report by Nate Higby)
 - a. Looking to inviting community organizations to present to us, in exchange for a stipend – we would do this by scheduling hour-long conversation outside of our regular commission time
 - b. Focus on organizations supporting LGBTQ POC populations
 - i. Have identified Queer the Land and AAoC as two initial organizations – don’t have to be limited to them
 - ii. How can we support what is happening at the Capitol Hill Organized Protest (CHOP) and connect with those community organizations?
 - c. Proposed format would be them presenting on their work for first 30 minutes, then Q&A; questions about whether it would be made public or not
 - i. Discuss ways we can support each others work and what skills/tools the Commission can bring
 - d. We have lower costs this year as a commission because there are fewer in-person events to rent space or buy food for – how can we get that money back into the community?
 - e. Motion to earmark \$600 for three stipends of \$200 each for three organizations. **Motion passes (100%)**

SOCR Workplan and Budget Report

1. Update from Mariko Lockhart, Director of Seattle Office of Civil Rights (SOCR)
2. Saad Bashir from Seattle IT Department can meet with commissioners of any of the 4 SOCR commissions to talk about website updates – a Doodle poll will be sent out
3. Brief update on where SOCR with major parts of its workplan
 - a. Law enforcement: enforces civil rights laws and is responsive to community.
 - i. Budget cuts mean that staff positions weren't filled and won't be soon due to COVID-19 hiring freeze
 - ii. There is a backlog of 85 people not assigned an investigator because of lack of staffing
 - b. RSJI team: large function is doing race and social justice trainings in response to needs of the 13,000 City employees
 - i. 2020 was supposed to be a year to train new trainers in different departments, but due to COVID-19 can't train people in person
 - c. Policy team: focus on criminal legal system
 - i. Mayor's Office now interested in supporting the long-time work such as the Re-entry Work Group
 - ii. Efforts going on in three different places to defund SPD and invest in BIPOC communities – King County Equity Now and Decriminalize Seattle are launching participatory budgeting processes
4. Updates on the Mayor's proposed budget adjustment for 2020 (due to COVID-19)
 - a. Looking at moving budget out of Seattle Police Department (SPD); offering a series of engagements with commissions – can facilitate conversations between Mayor's Office and Budget Office
5. Questions and comments from commissioners
 - a. Annabelle Bachman: What is the path for getting back to a healthy state with staffing for SOCR?
 - i. Mariko Lockhart: We should know if there is money in the 2021 budget later this year. We're submitting a hiring waiver request to the central budget office, but in 2021 there is already a \$300 million budget deficit. SOCR reports to CM Tammy Morales and also has met with CM Lisa Herbold on the public safety committee.

SOCR Report

1. Update by Janet Stafford, Seattle Office of Civil Rights
2. Updated training will come out soon on the Public Records Act and retention – 90-minute training, a Doodle poll was sent out last week
3. 5-chair meeting will happen on August 12 to collaborate on projects, share updates
4. Working on reappointments for commissioners whose terms have expired or will expire shortly.

HUD Changes to Shelter Services

1. Human Service Department's (HSD) LGBTQ Work Group would like to hear from Commission on the new shelter policy released by U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)
2. Updates include trying to return decision-making to shelters to determine who is allowed to access their single sex shelters, only requires providers look at biological sex without regard to identity
 - a. Expands denial criteria and provider discretion
3. HUD's funding increasing for single-sex shelters, creating additional burden for trans community trying to access shelters
4. Policy was released in July and the public comment period will likely run for 60 days – Commission can vote to sign a statement and connect with the Washington State LGBTQ Commission as well

Treatment of Transgender Protesters in Police Custody

1. Gender Justice League, Ingersoll Gender Center, and Disability Rights WA all engaged with King County Adult and Juvenile Detention on where, how, why, and for how long trans, nonbinary, and gender-nonconforming detainees are being held
2. Connected as well to the protests happening in the CHOP – many were detained for protesting, and police violence is happening as well towards protesters
 - a. Many calling for Mayor Durkan to be removed from office, to support demands of King County Equity Now, and to defund SPD by 50%
3. Scheduling a special open meeting for July 23 to discuss mayor and SPD's actions after the death of George Floyd and the rise of Black Lives Matter protests
4. Also scheduling a briefing about SPD budget to the Commission for end of July

Announcements & Reminders

1. Sabel Roizen is leaving the Commission – thank you, Sabel!

(END 8:38)