**Seattle Human Rights Commission**

**Meeting Minutes**

Thursday, March 3rd, 2015, 6:00–8:00 p.m.

City Hall - Boards and Commissions Room

**Commissioners Present:**    Sarah Bishop, Jason Poydras, Amy Huang, Margaret Babayan, Danielle Wallace, Lara Diaconu, Fekadu Shibeshi, Jeremy Wood, Marcel Baugh, Ashley Miller

**Commissioners by Phone**:None

**Commissioners Absent:** Edlira Kuka**,** Onya Robertson, Julianna Tesfu, Ken Nsimbi

**SOCR Staff Present:** Loren Othon

**Guests and Visitors:** Sara O’Connor Kriss, City Attorney; Ed Crouch, observer; Teacher, Bellevue High School

**Welcome and Introductions**

**Call to Order:**   The meeting is called to order by Danielle Wallace

**Public Comment**: None

**Approval of Minutes:** Minutes for February approved with edits

* Motion to approve by Amy Huang; seconded by Jason Poydras

**SOCR Report**

* Source of Income Discriminationlegislationis being finalized, will be presented to City Council by the end of March.
* Fair Chance Housing Committeewas kicked off, will be meeting until June; by June will be draft legislation and recommendations presented to City Council.
* RSJI Summit is being planned.
* Zero Detention Initiative will be led by Cadman Cahill, new staff for RSJI with a lot of experience with incarcerated youth.
* Gender identity training will be launched for all frontline City of Seattle staff, partnering with Pride Foundation.

**Appeals Update:**

Sarah O’Connor Kriss introduced the idea of modifying the current appeals process to include live testimony from the charging party with the presence of their attorney (if desirable), SOCR investigator, as well as the respondent. SOCR has indicated that they would be amenable to managing the administrative side of this kind of proceeding. It would have to be recorded, notice would have to be made at least 10 days in advance, and the hearings would have to be recorded. The Committee could decide on a case by case basis whether or not an oral presentation would take place, it would not necessarily. Jason commented that the proposed change would help in terms of difficulties encountered clarifying limited information that the Committee receives, however would not address the Committee’s Concern with the appeals process as a whole, in terms of helping the charging party to realise their full right to an appeal (which would involve presenting their appeal to the Superior Court). Currently the Appeals Committee only has the ability to remand the case to the SOCR. In order for the Committee to be able to call for oral testimony during appeals, we would need to ensure that the case documents were received much earlier in the process. Jeremy Wood would be interested in helping with the research.

**Executive Team Update:**

* Met with David Mendoza (Mayor’s Office) to present the annual work plan, will propose expanding the number of Commissioners to 21 total, interested in collaborating on the Zero Detention Initiative;
* Mayor’s Office requesting weekly updates from the SHRC. Loren will investigate whether submitting the monthly update with the Mayor’s office would be acceptable in lieu of weekly updates;
* The issue of the smoking ban letter was raised, and SHRC was requested to give Mayor’s office advance notice. The position of the SHRC in terms of ability to maintain credibility as an independent body was reiterated, while ways to maintain better relationships with city departments was also discussed;
* Requested written guidance on the lobbying restrictions from Sarah O’Connor Kriss so that commission members can use it as a reference.

**Commission Development Committee:**

* Two new commissioners are joining;
* Proposed separate Committee to focus on new commissioner recruitment, interview/selection, onboarding, exit interviews for departing commissioners, etc.;
* Need to explicitly recruit attorneys in the next round of recruitment;
* Ashley Miller is interested in joining this Committee.

**Action Items**

* Margaret introduced a letter supporting the Tent City Collective’s efforts to advocate for the UW to host Tent City 3 in the Winter of 2016. Sarah Bishop proposed edit to add paragraph about Seattle as a Human Rights City. Amy proposed edit to add list of other universities that have agreed to host tent cities. Jason suggested: 1) date (remove nd); 2) colon after President’s name in salutation; 3) 2nd paragraph, insert “County” before “Executive”; 4) define “the amount proposed” in 2nd paragraph 5) remove “for” from last sentence; 6) last sentence change ”respecting” to “safeguarding.” Sarah Bishop made the motion to approve, Marcel Baugh seconded the motion. All voted in favor of approving the letter, no abstentions.

**Task Force Updates**

* ECOSOC spoke at Human Services committee hearing around supplemental funding for homelessness.
* CPR Committee: will follow up on Zero Detention, body cameras, police reform and ;Onya met with CPC.
* Executive Committee: approved two letters in support of two detainees at the Northwest Detention Center: Angel Padilla and Adam Crapser.
* Cultural, Immigrant, Refugee and Tribal Rights Committee: Seattle Against Slavery is trying to get the Mayor’s Office to issue a proclamation against labor trafficking; request Commission’s approval to meet with the Mayor’s office and work towards a proclamation against labor trafficking. Motion to approve by Danielle Wallace; seconded by Jason and Ashley, all approve, none against or abstaining.

Task Force Group Meetings

Meeting adjourned at 8:00p

Next Commission Meeting: Thursday, April 7, 2016, 6:00-8:00pm, Boards and Commissions Conference Room L-280.