



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, August 21, 2017, 5:30 –7:30 p.m.

Commissioners Present: Morgan Beach, Loida C. Erhard, Michele Frix, Tracey Hutchinson-Whitten, Keisha Jackson, Min Pease, Erica Soelling, Ruchika Tulshyan

Commissioners Calling In: Tara Cookson, Teresa Springer

Commissioners Absent/Excused/Leave: Idabelle Fosse, Rokea Jones, Jacquee Kurdas, Xochitl Maykovich

Start time: 5:40PM

Announcements:

- Welcome New Commissioner to the Seattle Women's Commission (SWC)
 - Loren to add to SWC Listserv
- Manuel Venegas joining us from the LGBTQ Commission
- Paid Family Leave became state law!!!
 - SWC invited to Fundraiser for the Economic Opportunity Institute in celebration of this victory
 - October 12, 2017 5:30-7:30
 - A Co-Chair will forward the invite to Commissioners in hopes that a group of Commissioners could go together and represent the Commission (this would be out of pocket for each Commissioner)
 - Tickets are \$100 each, and are tax deductible

Public Comment: none

Approval of minutes: June 2017 SWC Minutes approved (100%)

Jeanette Williams Award update

Keisha, Loida, Rokea, Ruchika

- **At Columbia City Theater** – 1 Commissioner did a site visit
 - Now a 21+ venue; believed to have been all ages when site agreed upon
 - Commissioner sent email to the venue manager asking if there was a way to make all ages and manager says this is not possible
 - City of Seattle unable to provide child care
 - A Co-chair will follow up with venue manager to see if there are any ways to make it all ages
- **Budget** – original was \$950, currently at \$990 (\$1,065 if spoken word artist available)
 - **Venue:** \$150 – will cover lights, management, tables, chairs, production, etc.
 - **Catering:** \$545 – appetizers from Tutta Bella
 - **Desserts:** \$150
 - **Award:** \$70
 - **Entertainment:** \$75 – Jessica Dobson of Deep Sea Diver will perform
 - **Entertainment:** Previous artist no longer available (\$75 – Co-chair reaching out to another local spoken word artist to see if they are available)

- Cash bar on site
- Press release done
- Nominators and nominees invited
- Commissioner chosen to MC event
- Commissioner volunteered to create power point with which Microsoft Translate App can be used to help accessibility
- Invites included request that accessibility needs be communicated to event organizers; no accessibility needs communicated to organizers as of 08/21/17
- Online RSVP currently at 51 people
- Loren will send out another invitation to SOCR

⇒ **ASKS:**

- Commissioners to RSVP online if they haven't already
- Commissioners to send invite to networks/check-in regarding previously sent invites
- Commissioners requested to show up early to help set up

SOCR Update

Loren Othon

- Fair Chance Housing Legislation passed unanimously in Full City Council with all amendments making it essentially illegal to discriminate on housing based on past criminal records
- New Get Engaged Commissioner to start soon

Commission Vacancies/Interviews

T. Hutchinson-Whitten

- 6 vacancies; 55 applicants
- All applications reviewed by all Co-Chairs
- 6 applications sent to SOCR to proceed with interviews
 - One such person recently appointed to LGBTQ Commission
- 12 interviews (4 interviews/day) with the Co-Chairs will take place August 24th, 25th, and 26th, 2017– SWC will then recommend individuals to appoint to the City Council and Mayor, who will make the ultimate decision
- Discussed better utilization of Outreach Committee to ensure applicants can have opportunity to meet with Commissioners, ask questions, and understand application process

Subcommittee Restructuring Report Back

T. Hutchinson-Whitten

- After much discussion of subcommittee restructuring, Co-Chairs decided to return to subcommittee structure as detailed in current by-laws
- Current policy leads to act as Subcommittee Chairs/Co-Chairs until Commission Work Retreat
- Will go back to assigning Commissioners to a specific City Council Member
- Re-establish reporting mechanism to enhance accountability – biweekly reporting suggested with Google survey sent out by Co-Chairs
 - What are members doing?
 - Where are there gaps or holes in what we're doing?

Budget Update

M. Beach

- \$1,800 left as of July; started with \$2,000
- \$950: Jeanette Williams Award
 - Overages to come from social budgets
- \$300: Facilitator for half-day of Annual Work Retreat
- \$100: retreat breakfast & drinks (Commissioners to pay out of pocket for potluck lunch and happy hour)
- \$200: social with 5 Commissions, covers venue & food
- \$100: Commissioners to attend paid events and represent the Commission
- \$150: SWC Social – location, food, and drinks
 - Schedule for latter part of the year for new Commissioners to be there

Vote on Economic Evictions Item

M. Beach

- Invited to join Affordable Housing Alliance by Councilmember (CM) Sawant
- CM Sawant asking SWC to sign onto letter to be sent to Mayor Murray and Seattle City Council asking for an economic eviction ordinance
 - Goal of ordinance is for tenants to receive relocation assistance of \$3,500 from their landlord if renters who earn less than 80% of area median income receive rent increases of more than 10% and must move because of said rent increase
- Letter read in meeting, will be sent out to Commission via email; letter also viewable on CM Sawant's Council Blog Page
- Co-Chair inviting Adam of CM Sawant's office to come present about issue at September 18th meeting
- Equitable Development Subcommittee Chair to follow up on this

Vote on Endorsing Older Women's Equity Forum

T. Cookson

- Older Women's Equity Forum sponsored by Aging and Disability Division of Human Services
- Asked SWC to co-sponsor event:
 - No financial commitment
 - Obligation to publicize event – Commissioner volunteered to oversee this
- Other co-sponsors include:
 - Seattle King County Public Health
 - South Puget Sound Activists for Retirement Actions
 - Others
- November 6, 2017 – open to the public to bring greater visibility to aging women in Seattle, examining intersection of women and aging and sexism, ageism, racism, homophobia, home ownership/renting/houselessness, etc.
- **Motion for SWC to co-sponsor Older Women's Equity Forum: approved unanimously**

Vote on Joining Other Commissions in Asking for Mayor's Resignation

M. Beach/I. Fosse

- LGBTQ Commission issued letter for Mayor to resign over continued allegations of child sexual abuse and his response/language around survivors of sexual trauma
- Commissioner read the Seattle LGBTQ Commission's letter in its entirety
- **Motion to write new letter addressing sexual abuse: passed with 9 yeas and 1 abstention**
- **Motion to ask for Mayor's resignation in our own letter and to also sign onto the LGBTQ Commission's letter: did not pass with 5 yeas and 5 abstentions**
- 2 Commissioners appointed to write letter and send to Co-chairs for distribution
- 1 Commissioner appointed to develop talking points

7:40 PM

Adjourn

NEXT COMMISSION MEETING: Monday, September 18, 2017, 5:30-7:30 PM. Boards and Commissions Conference Room, L280.