



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, June 19, 2017, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Commissioners Present: Mergitu Argo, Morgan Beach, Idabelle Fosse, Keisha Jackson, Jacquee Kurdas, Allison Mondy, Nicki Olivier Hellenkamp, Allyson Palmer, Jaron Reed Goddard, Erica Soelling, Teresa Springer

Commissioners Calling In: Tara Cookson, Tracey Hutchinson-Whitten

Commissioners Absent/Excused/Leave: Elsa Batres-Boni, Loida C. Erhard, Michele Frix, Honey Jo Herman, Rokea Jones, Xochitl Maykovich, Ruchika Tulshyan

Start time: 5:34PM

Announcements:

- Morgan and Idabelle just wrapped up meeting with 25 members of the World Affairs Commission
- Idabelle and Teresa met with members of the Denver Women's Commission last week and discussed how those ran; will partner with us to acknowledge the 2018 Denim Day
- Mergitu, Alison, Alyson, Nicki, and Jaron's last meeting
- Mergitu to work with Morgan to outreach to the East African community for future Commissioners
- Approval of minutes: deferred until July meeting

SOCR Updates

Brenda Anibarro & Patty

- About to launch Fair Chance Housing Legislation through Mayor's Office working with Councilmember Herbold, Fair Housing Commission, SOCR
 - Ask came from women living at Sojourner Place in transitional housing
 - Legislation regarding rental housing protections for people with criminal records, including:
 - Regulating advertisement to no longer have categorical bans listed (e.g. on Craigslist)
 - Can only ask about criminal history within the past 2 years
 - Cannot ask about criminal histories that are older than 2 years, juvenile convictions, arrests without conviction, and others
 - Some exemptions for certain rental properties
 - Not a consensus piece of legislation
 - Best serve communities who need this with an effective policy
 - **ASK:** SWC Commissioners to attend Press Conference this Wednesday at 1:45 pm in the Norm B. Rice room in City Hall – formal invite to be sent out. Also, SWC Commissioners to attend upcoming hearing with Councilmember Herbold the week of July 10th
 - Xochitl to spearhead effort
- Loren worked closely with the LGBT Commission and Ingersoll Gender Center to develop guidance for Seattle City employees working with individuals who are transitioning
 - Based on a model out of D.C.
- Seattle City Library incident will be looked into by SOCR

Seattle City Light Employees

Morgan Beach / Beth Rocha & Linda Elwood

- Beth & Linda developed 25 vignettes exploring the range of gender-based harassment experienced by womxn employees of Seattle City Light Customer Energy Solutions (SCL CES) department from anonymous testimonies written by female employees of SCL CES
- CES has more than 60 employees
- Beth and Linda developed a petition that was signed by 42 employees of SCL CES agreeing to the blatant sexism experienced by womxn employees with demands for accountability, among other measures
- Shortly after petition was given to management, SCL CES' HR announced plan to hire consultant to improve "mutual respect" dynamics within Seattle City Light; the consultant has not yet been hired
- Patty suggests including the Mayor and other decision makers on a letter written by the SWC asking about issues raised by Beth Rocha's presentation. Also suggests that consultant hiring should involve the people most aggrieved
- Concern that hiring a consultant will not address specific concerns
- Budget limited to \$49,000 for consultant while much more is allotted to consultants hired for process improvement measures
- Culture Change committee

Update from the Mayor

Teresa Springer / Mayor Ed Murray

- What have been some of the early responses to the 12 weeks paid family leave benefit to City employees announced February 2017? What are some of the challenges, if any, that have been brought up to you?
 - No challenges brought
 - 3 people in own office used
 - Many firefighters using it – few women in Fire Department
 - More men than women had taken it
- Child care expenses in Seattle are an enormous burden for many families. What, if anything, can the City do to reduce this cost?
 - Soda tax 0-3-year-old to be universal during next ballot measure next election
 - Would require new taxes for universal childcare for kids age 0-5; working with Councilmember Burgess for this
- ST3 presents a huge opportunity for our region to work toward equitable development. Do you have ideas about how the City of Seattle can ensure that the areas around light rail stations include affordable housing and commercial space affordable to small businesses, especially those owned by women and women of color?
 - HALA is the baseline for tripling the number of affordable housing units at Roosevelt, First Hill/Capitol Hill, and other sites around the region
 - Community groups working towards getting commercial and housing units owned by women and women of color
- What is the City's role in advocating for reproductive health services (birth control and access to abortion services) for Seattle residents should the Affordable Care Act be repealed and services no longer be provided?
 - King County provides reproductive health services, not City of Seattle
 - Seattle could work with King County to provide reproductive health services
- Given the new administration, and the increased violence it has brought about, what is the City doing to protect immigrant and refugee women of color? And LGBTQ women, specifically women of color? Especially those in domestic violence situations, who may not be documented immigrants?
 - Working with other Mayor's leading effort at US Conference of Mayors for immigration
- Charleena Lyle's shooting by SPD
 - A full inquiry will be made into Charleena Lyle's death

- Over the past year, SPD had over 9,000 contacts with people in crisis - 1.4% of these interactions involved use of excessive force
- Accountability measures approved by City Council must be implemented
- What are your top priorities related to women for the remainder of your term as Mayor? And how can we, the Women's Commission, support your priorities for the women of Seattle? Especially low income, WOC and LGBTQ women?
 - HALA is fully up and running
 - Preparing for next year's Pre-K levy and early childhood care levy
 - Will send other top priority for remainder of term

Jeannette Williams Award Deliberations

All Commissioners

- Motion to select Riddhi Mukhopadhyay as the winner of the Jeannette Williams Award passed unanimously

Co-Chairs Nominations and Vote

All Commissioners

- All four nominees won a majority of votes; our new co-chairs are:
 - Idabelle, Tracy, Teresa, and Morgan

Charleena Lyle's Death

All Commissioners

- Motion for Idabelle, Tara, and Erica to write letter to the Mayor, SOCR, Police Chief, AG, and potentially others to discuss ways the SWC can support Charleena Lyle's family
- Write letter to police chief passed with Jaron Reed Goddard abstaining
- Write letter motion passed unanimously

7:30 PM

Adjourn