

June 18th, 2020

Seattle Disability Commission

Also known as;

Commission for People with DisAbilities

Meeting Notes

06/18/20 4:00pm - 6:00pm

Zoom Conference Call

Commission Members Present:

Via Zoom: Jessica Williams-Hall, ChrisTiana ObeySumner, Kristina Sawyckyj, Eric Scheir, Hannah Wilson, Jayson Morris, Khazm Kogita, Anquida Adams, Kaitlin Skilton (pending commissioner).

- Absent: n/a
- Unexcused Absence: n/a
- Excused Absence: n/a

Guests: Mike Baskett (Seattle IT), Trisha York (Elected Board Member of Tenant's Union of Washington), RJ, Anna Zivarts

OCR: Janet Stafford

Facilitators: Maralise Hood-Quan, Antasia Williams

Meeting Called to Order at 4:10pm

Meeting Norms

- Reviewed.

Announcements & Public Comment

Member of the Public - A mother of three children with disabilities has been experiencing a lack of accessibility with Seattle's Park. In effort to

mitigate COVID risk Seattle's park Department has closed off the parking lots in eight of the major parks, which means ADA parking stalls are unavailable. Also, her children's disabilities do not require an ADA parking stall however they still need a safe and accessible place to park in order to ensure their family's safety.

The commenting member of the public called Seattle's Parks Department to ask how folks with disabilities are being accommodated and their response was to say that four of the parks had ADA stalls open.

Questions to the commission – were any of the commissioners made aware of this circumstance, or were any commissioners invited to the decision that the parks Department made? Also is the commission aware if any of the ADA coordinators for the city might have been involved?

- Commissioner: Not being consulted as a commission is an issue. Accommodation is definitely an issue here. They should have come and talked to us about it. It makes me wonder how many spaces are not accessible right now because they are using an ablest lens. Also raises a red flag for barriers to come – in terms of how the government chooses to balance budgets that are currently in deficit.
- Commissioner: We have a commissioner who has been active on parks related taskforce. She reported that she was unaware of these decisions as well.

Approval of the Minutes

- March minutes Approved
- April minutes Approved

Seattle Office for Civil Rights Report

Budget: No money has been spent from the budget – commission has \$2,000.

Soon Coming Message from Mariko Lockhart to OCR Commissions:

- In the next couple of days, the commission will be receiving a message from OCR's Director Mariko Lockhart. This message will be directed specifically to our four commissions.
- What you'll see in this email is an updated 2020 OCR work plan, as well as a 10% cut that OCR has been requested to take for the next year.
- Mariko would like to meet with each of the commissions, sometime in July or August, regarding the workplan, budget, and any other priorities that are important to the commissions. She needs to know if the commission prefers to have her come to a regularly scheduled meetings or schedule a different time?

- Commissioner: Requested OCR to make a doodle poll so the commission can identify the best time to meet with Markio.

ADA 30:

- The city's ADA 30 event will no longer be held in July at City Hall, it will be postponed to October during disability awareness month. However, organizers are currently working with Seattle channel and King County TV to provide a 3-hour programming broadcast at the end of July.
- Holly Delcambre would like the commission to co-sponsor by advertising the event. The sponsorship is just in name and commitment to marketing, there is no monetary request.
- OCR believes the programming will be available virtually. Holly was able to send a program of just some details of what that would look like. The email has been forwarded.

Vote on Sponsoring the ADA 30 Event: The Commission unanimously voted to sponsor the ADA 30 event.

Commission Name:

- OCR needs the commission to re-vote on the name change. The name needs to be typed out and can then be pushed it out to the legal department. The law department just needs a vote that is up to date.
- Commissioner – I thought we voted on this already but okay.
- Commissioner – Request to put a sunset date in place so that the name will go forward. Because commissioners do not want to have to go through this process again, where we are two years in the future having to do another vote and go through the process again.
- Commissioner - The new name of the commission is “Seattle Disability Commission”. The commission voted to change the name.

Name Change Vote

Commissioner motioned that the commission change its names to “Seattle Disability Commission” and that the city’s legal department process the name change by November 2020. The commission unanimously voted in favor of the motion. The motion passed.

City of Seattle IT – WebEx (Mike Baskett)

The city is deploying a new meeting platform called WebEx. Seattle IT would like to share accessibility features of the platform as well as hear what this commission needs.

Feedback is being given to WebEx around accessibility. It is a big company so it's hard to say if our feedback will change anything but at least the process can get started by letting them know what people need.

Commissioner – Are we moving to WebEx because the city is requiring it?

- Seattle IT - The city's telephone system is old and antiquated. Buying new telephone service from WebEx also includes WebEx meeting platform tools. WebEx offers both telephone services as well as this meeting platform.

Commissioner – I find that WebEx is really accessible.

Seattle IT: Anybody can access a WebEx email invite, even without a license, as long as you have an email address or phone number. Phone dial in is also always available, no matter what.

WebEx can accommodate up to 1000 people. Can accommodate 3000 with special request.

Commissioner: Accessibility for people with limited vision; can the font be changed and can the colors be inverted?

- Seattle IT: Currently no. WebEx has already been given feedback about this. In the next 3 months or so WebEx will be launching new features – we are not sure if the aforementioned changes will be included or not. If the web browser supports inverted colors you can utilize that. Also zooming in and out on the computer. WebEx is usable either via the Web or via an application like downloaded application onto a computer.

Seattle IT: There is a closed caption feature. It works very similar to Zoom, however in that release of new features in the next few months, automated closed captioning will be available so that a captioner is not needed and participants will just be able to have the words show up at the bottom of their screen as people talk in live, in real-time.

- Commissioner – can the size and placement of the captions be adjusted on WebEx.
- Seattle IT: I don't know but I will check and get back to you.

Commissioner – are there visual notifications that will help deaf participants? I would like to see what they call visual notification that when somebody raises their hand, I can see who it is. So is there something that somebody can push on their keyboard, something that will flash or a color that will go around their picture so I know the person that is talking?

- Seattle IT: Yes, there is a raise hand feature. In a regular meeting, when someone clicks on the raised hand feature it will pop up next to their name. So there is a raise hand feature and it depends on if you are in a regular meeting or an event.
- In a regular meeting when someone clicks the raise hand button, then it shows like a little hand being raised in their square, so you can see that there. In the event, on the right-hand side of the screen is what's called the attendee history and it's a list of each person's name and when they click the raise hand feature, a small hand shows next to their name.

Seattle IT: The talk to text feature is not currently a feature on WebEx but I will raise that question as well.

Commissioner – Talk to text is not a feature, and it sounds like the high contrast is not a feature, so it is sounding to me that some of the accessibility and accommodation requests that we as commissioners have are not necessarily going to be addressed by switching to WebEx. It seems the switch to WebEx is not necessarily about accessibility but more so it is what the City is requiring. If that's true, to what extent can we sort of rabble rouse to make sure that we can have accessibility? Can we take it month by month to see which (Zoom or WebEx) platform is most accessible for the commission?

- Seattle IT: IT has connection with our vendor who is supplying us the product of WebEx who has connections with WebEx. I don't know how much weight that holds with WebEx as they are a worldwide company however, we are giving them feedback and raising awareness around accessibility.

- Seattle IT: In terms of utilizing what you are using now in Zoom - because of security, privacy, and record retention reasons, Seattle IT management or leadership essentially has said that Zoom is not supported by the City of Seattle. That being said, I'm not here to tell you to not use Zoom.
- Commissioner – I see some of the features Zoom has, but if WebEx is able to address our issues – wouldn't it be worth trying out? Some of the features WebEx has, Zoom doesn't have. It is easier to navigate conversations with WebEx.
- Commissioner – We should take it month by month. We should try WebEx next month, and see how we feel.

Commissioner – I'd like us to do 3 or 4 trials before our next meeting. Let's try it in different phases instead of saying one and done. At least 2-3 times trying it out.

- Facilitator – we can use our agenda planning meeting to utilize WebEx

- Commissioner - WebEx bought the speech to text software from another company
- Commissioner – can we have a dry run on the day before the July commission meeting?
- Seattle IT– Seattle IT can provide support on the 2nd and 15th.
- Commissioner - Maybe Cisco can have their accessibility person talk to us too
- Seattle IT – I'll ask

WebEx Links Provided by Seattle IT

- Link to the help page of WebEx - <https://help.webex.com/en-us/>
- Link to self help with screen view - https://help.webex.com/en-us/nk20oui/Full-Screen-Video-Layouts-in-Cisco-Webex-Meetings-and-Cisco-Webex-Events#concept_C0E25B039CA0CAB367B14DD17D1F5FE1

Black Lives Matter Statement

- Commissioner – I'm really happy we are learning about each other. I feel like the group is coming together and I am proud that I get to work with the wonderful individuals here. I am a person that gives grace and also I'm a humble person, so any time I step on somebody's toes or need correction I am open to that feedback and adjusting as a human being.
- Commissioner – The Black Lives Matter statement of the commission came from a statement I had already written with a friend / colleague who is another disabled black woman. I had her permission to adopt it into something specific to us. I have been rabble rousing around anti-racism and it's been a really difficult uphill battle in this space, so there is a lot of conflict in my body. Where I am happy to hear some of you are talking to friends and grappling through what anti blackness means, what racism means, and how systemic this is, how historical this is, it is still very painful because I'm battle-worn. I have not just been doing this since engaging with the Commission, this has been my whole life. I come from a family of Black Panthers. My maiden

name is Obey which is from the Ebo tribe in Nigeria. My people were bought and sold as witch doctors.

- Cont...On top of that, black disabled folks have been brutalized and murdered along with other disabled folks and especially disabled folks of color. And I have seen that not just in my life but I have had family that I have lost to medical racism and ableism. I have had family that has been lost in prison because they didn't receive adequate health care as black disabled people. I myself got into disability advocacy because of my own experience of going through institutionalization.
- Cont....I share this because if you have ever questioned why I may have been angry, emotional, or upset around ensuring conversations around racism, anti-blackness, and intersectionality in this commission, this is why. I am happy that this is a conversation that isn't a taboo topic anymore. I am also very scared that it will become a trendy topic and then there is going to be a time when people want to stop talking about it and then we won't.
- Cont....So my call to you, if not as a co-chair and if not as a commissioner, and even if not as a friend, but just as a really

vulnerable black person right now that's kind of in pain, to really hold the energy that you have for the rest of your life. And grow it and turn it into systemic actionable change. And do it in a way that while there is the leadership of those most impacted, they are not expected to shoulder that burden and carry that work and that you grow to be able to disrupt these things in the moment.

Public Comment – Online meetings

I am on the pedestrian advisory board which we are working to make sure that we have accessible sidewalks and pedestrian infrastructure throughout our city. Since the pandemic we started having our monthly meetings online and we've noticed that public participation and participation has increased dramatically. Before COVID we would have half of our members present and maybe one or two members of the public. Now we are having 40 to 50 people signing into Zoom calls to participate which has been really awesome.

We are wanting to use this momentum with online meetings to keep that going after in-person meetings return - to keep online meetings an option for boards and for commissions.

We would also love to see the ability to give online public comment as part of City Council rather than just in person, to increase the ability of more people in our city to participate.

So we have started working on a letter. I will share it with you. It is still open to edits and feedback. We are still incorporating more edits and feedback as we share it around. So if anyone is interested in looking at that and then maybe at a future meeting you all could decide if you wanted to sign on once the language is finalized. But it is still evolving and it would be great to have input from folks here if you are interested. [P
SEP]

- Commissioner - I do have a copy of the letter. If you don't have a copy I'm happy to share it with you guys after the meeting is finished.

Jubilee

Commissioner: what happened to Jubilee planning

Commissioner – we have three options since we just sponsored an ADA event in October.

- 1st option is to focus on ADA and not have Jubilee.
- 2nd option is to promote ADA but conserve energy to host it the month before or after.
- 3rd option is to combine the events. See if the city is willing to partner in a way that we can mash it up.

Facilitator – June and July is what you put on your timeline to identify what were your awards and selection criteria were going to be. Someone has to show up with the meeting what you want to do regarding the

awards we can preserve time to talk about the awards for your Jubilee in July.

Commissioner - with the coronavirus right now, I don't think it's going to be done by this fall. My father's a microbiologist and he feels like this is going to be going on until next year. So do we have any plan A and B?^[P]_[SEP]
A would be that we actually have a physical event and then have like something like a plan B that's a virtual event? Maybe we can discuss more of that in July.

- Commissioner – are the trophies going to be physical trophies or are we going to do money or something like that?
- Commissioner – I have seen very innovative ways people have been hosting events virtually – graduations, funerals, weddings, etc..

Commissioner – does anyone want to volunteer to lead Jubilee?

- Commissioner – can we do it collectively again so we can all share the burden?
- Commissioner Kristina offered to lead – is not doing anything right now.

Meeting Adjourned at 6:02pm_____

Action Items

- July 2nd Agenda planning meeting
- Wednesday the 15th dry run
- Thursday the 16th Commission Meeting

Future Agenda Items

Jubilee awards and selection criteria