



Seattle Immigrant and Refugee Commission
March 6th, 2012, 6:00-7:50 PM
City Hall, Boards and Commissions Room-L280

Meeting Minutes

- Commissioners Present:** Devon Abdallah, Andrea Caupain, Cherry Cayabyab, Shree Ram Dahal, Michael Neguse, Jesus Rodriguez, Leno Rose-Avila, Tsegaba Woldhaimanot
- Commissioners Absent:** Mohamed Sheikh Hassan, Bincy Jacob, Pradeepta Upadhyay, Yasemin San
- Commissioners by Phone:** None
- SOCR Staff Present:** Julie Nelson, Ron Ramp
- Guest Speakers:** Jennifer Wieland, SDOT Project Manager
- Call to Order:** Call to order at 6:05 PM
- Approval of Minutes:** February minutes approved (corrected attendance to reflect Pradeepta out)

SOCR Report; Julie Nelson, Director

Julie discussed upcoming community events. In particular a RSJI 3 year plan kickoff event is this Saturday 3/10 1- 3 PM at New Holly. Julie advised translation services are available, and to contact SOCR for arrangements. The primary focus will be on education.

Julie spoke about the new paid sick leave ordinance. Julie discussed the complexity of the ordinance. She asked commissioners to forward names of immigrant employer groups to her as we are working to ensure any of their questions or concerns are addressed in the administrative rules.

Elliott Bay Sea Wall & Water Front Projects; Jennifer Wieland, Project Manager SDOT

Jennifer Wieland spoke about the two large projects effecting Seattle's waterfront. One project is replacing the seawall, and the second is the waterfront project.

The seawall is 70 to 100 years old, and failing. If a Nisqually sized earth quake happened, the seawall has a 1 in 10 chance of failing. The seawall was constructed with old growth timbers that have significantly deteriorated over the years. The replacement will be done in two phases. The first is from Washington Street to Virginia Street, then from Virginia to Broad.

The new structure will be built with steel and concrete. The life span for the new structure will be much greater than the current seawall. The waterfront will look very different once the seawall project is completed. Plans include a beach at Pioneer Square, and improved marine habitat. Funding for the Seawall project is estimated at 300 million.

The waterfront projects will have a big impact on Seattle's central waterfront. The plan hopes to attract city residents year round. The public spaces will be versatile, and the use can change with the seasons or time of day. The plan includes connecting the aquarium with the Pike Place Market. The waterfront plan has public spaces for a variety of activities; for example, concerts, children's fountain, food vendors. There is a possibility of a seasonal public pool. This is currently lacking in the downtown core. A budget estimate on this projects is expected fairly soon.

These projects are inviting community involvement in the planning stages. The commission provided feedback to the project manager. It was mentioned access is critical; with public transportation, better parking, and other transportation options. It was pointed out that this is a very large project; and the laws around hiring local and low income workers need to be enforced. It was pointed out that is should be welcoming to multiple cultures. The 1% of art would be a good place for multi cultural opportunities. The recent totem pole raising at Seattle Center was mentioned as a good example. The history of the area was talked about. For example the fact that it is on Duwamish land. San Francisco has brass markers for a historical walking tour. Another idea was of an international flag display.

Update on Director Selection

Devon said about 100 applicants have been received for the position. The commission discussed how the commission will participate in the selection panel.

Motion passed to have Cherry Cayabyab and Michael Neguse on the Director's selection panel. These names will be submitted to the Mayor's Office.

Work Plan Committees

The latest version of the work plan was not available at the meeting, but the committees where discussed. Some committees have not had an opportunity to meet. All committees have plans to meet soon, if they have not done so already.

The protocols committees asked if anyone has good protocols to please share them with the committee. The committee is working on the commissioner job description. This should be available soon for the two current vacancies on the commission.

Attendance

The commission had a discussion around attendance. The bylaws state more than 3 consecutive un-excused absents you can be asked to leave the commission. It was felt this should be enforced. It was mentioned circumstances change, and there should be no shame in stepping down from the commission.

Motion to start counting Commissioner absences to Commission meetings as of January 2012.

Letter regarding CAMP

All the commissioners received an individual packet of information from Jacquie Walsh called a “Media Advisory.” The packet expressed concerns about changes under way at Central Area Motivation Program (CAMP). Commissioner Andrea Caupain is the Director of CAMP. The commission agreed to write a letter in response to the packet. The letter will state that the concerns expressed are not in the purview of the commission.

The Meeting Adjourned at 8:00 PM