



City of Seattle



Meeting Minutes

4.15.21 | 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Virtual Meeting via WebEx

Commissioners Present: Chris Brown, Jessi Murray, DeAunte Damper, Manuel Venegas, Victor Loo, Nathaniel Higby, Latosha Correll, Steven Pray, Brett Pepowski, Annabelle Backman, Ryan Bush

Commissioners Absent:

SOCR Staff: Stephen Cuplin, Nona Raybern, Leo Segovia

Meeting Minutes recorded by: Stephen Cuplin

Guests: Alex Wycoff, AnnaLise Bender-Brown, Andrew Ashiofu, Diondra Braswell, Charlette LeFevre

Welcome and Introductions

Hello to the Commissioner Candidates!

Greetings from them, and rollcall.

Greeting from Charlette, guest from Capitol Pride

Public Open Comment

Charlette is concerned about the links between SPD & Proud Boys/other White Supremacy groups, and their attendance at the Capitol Riots. Wants to improve communication with Commission, protect Pride. Northwest has several active white supremacy groups and it's alarming to see SPD doing photoshoots with them, and groups like Open Carry.

- Jessi acknowledged those concerns, reiterated that SLGBTQ shares those concerns. wants to let them know the Commission will help to elevate them .
- Charlette wants an investigation into SPD's ties, does not trust OPA. Wants a hate-group watch list beyond just SPLC, based in Seattle.

Discussion/Minutes

Motion to approve April agenda passed

Motions to approve minutes from Feb approved, two abstentions due to absence

March minutes – absences not complete, but no objections otherwise.

Victor - JustCARE update:

- Council is on board, Mayor's Office is resistant.
- Optimistic that it will proceed
- The MO is being given a bit of extra time, but soon will look into motivational opportunities

Victor – SHRC Collaboration

- Conversation regarding homelessness, specifically around BIPOC individuals
- Open to bringing more Commissioners with them to facilitate further conversation.
- Alex Wycoff: Attended meeting this morning focused on homelessness with a Seattle Times article as the point of discussion. Hoping that SLGBTQ can help pressure MO, after the MO had over a year to respond but did nothing. Wants to help shine Media light onto the fact that funding is available, but City is being sluggish about pursuing it.
- Jessi touched on other positions the Commission has taken, but welcomes discussion about other avenues they can pursue for advocacy and pressuring.
- Alex reiterated concerns regarding policies that lack humanity and experience, frustration with the 5/10/20 year plans. These plans allow for people to fall out of the housing process because the officials lose patience, etc.
- DeAunte thanked Alex for the passion/energy but indicated that for the sake of the agenda that some things might be better discussed offline.

DeAunte/Leo – Ingersoll

- DeAunte opened the floor for discussion about Ingersoll; let the Commission know that Ingersoll has not responded to some inquiries.
- Leo has an update regarding some of the City Contracts with Ingersoll; what renewal process and stipulations are. Working on what next steps might look like. Things are up in the air due to COVID, transferal of responsibilities to new Regional Authority
- Annabelle followed up asking what these stipulations are. These contracts appear to just be renewed without any real examination/review. Stated that there needs to be a meeting between the Commission and OED.
- Leo: Caveat being added to Ingersoll's contract, requiring collaboration with BIPOC led organizations.
- Annabelle, Brett, Victor, Chris for sure want to be part of the meeting with OED
- Leo suggested that the meeting occur with Council, and/or Mayor's Office.
- Steven asked how long Ingersoll has been funded; it initiated under Mayor Murray.
- Chris gave some background about Ingersoll; was early LGBTQ org to do that sort of work. Because the City granted funding, it sort of allowed Ingersoll to undercut other orgs and emerge as the juggernaut.
- Alex suggested a new oversight board that creates "competition", rather than picking "champion" orgs.

Andrew Ashiofu – part of a health advisory board

- Invited Commissioners to join that conversation; provided an update that there are other sources of funding
- Annabelle put forward that Commission should pursue using COVID relief funding to aid community more directly.
- Alex wants to put together a work group to advocate for the Compassion Seattle Charter Amendment

Brett – Circling back to OED Bosses/who to advocate for

- Leo suggested CBO as partner for discussion. Wants to frame discussion around what other pressure points on the City/ avenues for advocacy exist. Mentioned that there is a 3rd party investigation underway – maybe wait until that completes before pursuing more active measures.

Jessi – Recap on discussions

- Ingersoll – Victor, Annabelle, Brett, and Chris want to work with Leo on that.
- Charter Amendment, FEMA Funding – Victor, Alex

Steven suggested reaching out to FAS, CBO, OED

- Chris wants to set up a call with those two orgs to help set priorities and guidelines for financing.

Nate has to sign off. Pushing vote on new Co-Chair with Nate for next month.

Strategic conversation about what things can be done beyond simply apportioning 185K to an organization or two.

Moving on to subcommittee reports. Everyone should be on at least one subcommittee!

- ComOps – Announce candidacy 3 days prior to the vote!!!
 - 4th Wednesday of the month is when meetings are
 - Look at ByLaws for refurbishment
 - Attendance tracking
 - S/O to new Commissioners to be added to social media accounts, google drive
 - Discussion around Pride, next steps. MO will take Commission lead.
 - Discussion about SharePoint is ongoing.
- POC Inclusion Committee
 - Latosha would like RSVPs so they are aware of attendance forecasting
- CommOut (outreach, social media)

Jessi, DeAunte – Candidate Forum

- Sponsored a candidate forum in 2019 for City Council seats
- Potentially doing this again for seats 8, 9, and MO.

- Can advocate for specific policies; but not candidates or ballot measures
- Thus, ask specific questions of candidates regarding important policies
- Check in to see if Commissioners are onboard, when it should happen, and if it should be collaborative with other Commissions
- DeAunte wants to focus in on candidates who have showed up for them before; not just the ones who tokenize LGBTQ during Pride
- Manuel would like an offline discussion about how candidates who have been in the public eye before might be perceived in Community.
- Challenge around developing pointed questions

SOCR Report

Nona Introduction, very supportive, looking forward to working with everyone.

Announcements, Reminders, & Roll Call

Jessi – Meeting with Allyship

- Working on Workers Rights, Tenants Rights, concerns around forcing people to out themselves to file complaints.
- Want to examine system around grants, and how much of it will actually be going to the LGBTQ community
- Balancing privacy, safety concerns with the need to gather data.
- Connecting Latosha into that conversation
- Engaging with their newsletter and including them in SLGBTQ's

DeAunte gave shoutouts to everyone for their hard work, recommended people to watch Them, also said that they (co-chairs) are available to talk at all times (except after 11pm on Friday)

IceBreaker – everyone's favorite show.

(END 8:30)