**COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT COMMISSION**

August 17, 2020

6:00 – 8:00 pm

Zoom Meeting

**Commissioners present:** Alison Turner, Bill Southern, Carol Redfield, Chris Maykut, Emily Kim, Jasmine Aryana, Julie Pham, Karyn Kubo Fleming, Martha Lucas, Robert White, Felix Chang

**Commissioners not present:** Sharif Mahfouz, Thais Marbles

**City of Seattle Staff present**: Abesha Shiferaw (DON), Laura Jenkins (DON)

***(Transcriber’s Note: The notes shown below are summaries of statements provided. They are not transcriptions and have been shortened and edited to include the major points raised. Full comments are retained in the files in voice recording and available upon request.***

**Check-in**

The co-chairs opened the meeting. A brief introduction and check-in status followed.

**DON Update**

Ms. Abesha Shiferaw mentioned that she is temporarily stepping in as the staff liaison for the Commission.

She noted that Ms. Laura Jenkins and Ms. Angela Rae of the Outreach and Engagement Team in DON will become the co-staff liaison after the transition.

The Commissioners asked about who the point of contact for the Commission and Ms. Shiferaw is suggested that they can contact both staff liaison for support. Ms. Rae and Ms. Jenkins will notify the Commission at the next meeting who will be the point person. Ms. Shiferaw added that Ms. Jenkins and Ms. Rae will assist the co-chairs in preparing for the monthly meetings.

A commissioner asked about an update on the Open Public Meetings Act (OPMA). At the last meeting, the Commission decided to go on a hiatus because of an unclear direction about conducting meetings that are not COVID-19 RELATED. Ms. Shiferaw commented that the OPMA restriction was lifted and the Commission can continue to meet virtually and conduct meetings.

Commissioner Julie Pham asked about what the Commission can do at this time as it continues to hold the virtual meeting.

Commissioner Martha Lucas suggested having a virtual meeting retreat and hold a team-building exercise to reacquaint with one another.

Commissioner Pham asked about the budget and if the Commission could afford to hire a trainer and facilitate this exercise. Ms. Shiferaw and Ms. Jenkins both commented that they were not sure if the COVID-19 situated affects any Commission funding and will follow up.

Commissioner Alison Turner commented about having the team-building exercise as part of the normal meeting instead of having a separate event.

Commissioner Pham asked if it is possible of having the working committees go back and continue to work on plans pre-COVID-19 or do a reset of expectations.

Commissioner Carol Redfield suggested that it is a good idea to have a team-building exercise, especially for new incoming Commissioners. She added that she is in favor of incorporating this exercise as part of the regular meeting.

**Future Meeting Plans**

Commissioner Pham noted that the co-chairs would need to meet to plan for the next meeting and integrate what was discussed.

Commissioner Turner commented that the Commission will be waiting for the minutes from SPD and the co-chairs will meet to review and respond to the minutes. She added that there needs to be prioritization of the work that needs to be discussed for the Commission to be effective at the next meeting.

Ms. Shiferaw will follow up with the Mayor’s Office for their next steps and what have they have collected from the feedback from the presentation.

Commissioner Redfield asked if the Commission’s website be updated with information on the new Commission members.

Commissioner Turner commented that she would like to know the status of the open Commissioner’s position.

**Commissioners Appointment & Vacant Position**

Commissioner Lucas asked if there are any emergent work items that this Commission needs to accomplish due to political pressure.

Commissioner Turner commented that the Commission is self-directed and has a mandate because of an Executive Order. The role of this Commission is to advise, and the scope of work is broad. The challenge is to identify and prioritize the current and any upcoming work.

Commissioner Pham added that the work of this Commission is to advise and help optimize City departments and there is no time-sensitive work that the Commission needs to accomplish.

**Debrief SPD Budget Engagement Session**

The Commission reviewed the draft meeting minutes that the DON provided for edits and revisions.

Commissioner Redfield requested to add more details regarding the training of officers in the minutes.

Commissioner Felix Chang commented that the main purpose of the presentation was geared towards the SPD budget, and are seeking any public input from community members about reimagining public policing. He added that having the community engagement to get valuable information.

Commissioner Turner suggested incorporating the public comments including the specific questions that were asked in the chat box be included in the minutes.

Commissioner Jasmine Aryana asked if the letter from the West Seattle Community was introduced in the presentation, and there was no recollection from the Commissioners if the letter was introduced.

Commissioner Aryana requested if she could see the presentation materials so she can provide her feedback.

Commissioner Chang commented about the next steps for this Commission is to continue the current work of the existing workgroup and have an additional group that will focus on community policing.

He added that he would like to gauge the interest of the Commission if advising DON and SPD about community policing is beneficial to investigate.

Commissioner Redfield commented that it should be DON’s responsibility to provide this Commission with the work that is being done regarding community policing.

Commissioner Turner asked about the minutes from SPD so they could review and respond further.

The Commissioners began to discuss the process and how to engage the communities and interface with the different City departments about their role.

Commissioner Chang commented if the Commission can conduct or organize its direct community engagement regarding community policing with a focus on BIPOC communities and help facilitate this type of conversation.

He suggested about potentially adding another workgroup to work and focus on community policing.

Commissioner Redfield asked if there are any plans by DON about future community engagement around community policing. Ms. Shiferaw commented that DON and its Director has been in conversations with several organizers within the City and King County regarding these discussions. She was unaware of these facilitations are happening through DON.

Ms. Jenkins commented that SPD sent a survey to collect feedback from their presentation. She added that she will follow up and she will get a list of all the events that are happening, and she will reach out to SPD and the Mayor’s Office on how they are coordinating these events.

Commissioner Chang commented that having the list of all community engagement efforts will help identify any gaps to advise the City departments. He added that it will be helpful if the Commission could get the list by the next meeting. He noted that if there is a list of events that are happening from both the City and County will be helpful.

**Adjournment**

The next Commission meeting will be on Monday, September 21st.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm.