



City of Seattle
Community Involvement Commission

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT COMMISSION (CIC)

January 22, 2024

4:30 – 6:30 pm

Webex Meeting & Seattle City Hall Room 370

Commissioners present: Bill Southern (he/him), Michael Seo, Ahoua Koné (she/her), Marcus White, Cade Wiger, Julia Jannon-Shields (she/her), Heidi Morisset, Jessica Reeves, Nausheen Rajan, Fiona Murray

Commissioners not in attendance: Martha Lucas (she/her),

City of Seattle Staff present: Alvin Edwards (Seattle Department of Neighborhoods, he/him), Laura Jenkins (Seattle Department of Neighborhoods, she/her)

People with pending commission appointments present: Julio Perez

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 video recording and available upon request.

Community Comments and vote on 11/20/23 Meeting Minutes

There were no community comments.

The commission voted to approve the November 20, 2023 Community Involvement Commission meeting minutes.

Ideas for Subcommittee Goals

Role of data in future of commission

Recruitment and Retention

- Exit survey.

Commission Draft Goals Conversation

- Co-chair Jannon Shields asked the group if anyone could provide a summary on the 2024 Draft goals for her and other commissioners who may not have been present.
- Co-chair White gave an overview of the draft goals, and the commissioners discussed 5 goals.

Staff Liaison Jenkins commits to taking notes in real time while commissioners discuss goals. References two additional sub goals to discuss.

- Commissioner Kone – Would like to see goals 3 and 4 re-worded so that it is simpler to understand.

- Commissioner Wiger – Will we talk about how we will accomplish these goals and get out into some of the districts to talk to the community? Action Steps to meet goals and get feedback from stakeholders. What is the mechanism to provide feedback? How are we doing this and when are we going to start it?
- The commissioners engage in a discussion about goal #3 and how it can be reworded for clarification:

Suggestions and questions

- Commissioner Kone – Reword (Increase feedback from City of Seattle Stakeholders to at least 10%)
- Staff Liaison Jenkins – Confirmed that “Stakeholders” is referring to city staff and elected officials.
- Commissioner Wiger – Confirmed that stakeholder is not referring to community members.
- Staff Liaison Jenkins – Changed stakeholders to “Departments and elected officials” in the document.
- Commissioner Kone called for more clarification around “stakeholders” (who are they).
- Commissioner Rajan – questioned if we should have a twin goal that focuses on increased feedback from residents as well as council?
- Commission Murray – A percentage does not make sense, especially given 0 cannot increase mathematically. Outreach to City of Seattle stakeholder’s “x” times in 2024, through emails and attending City council meetings.
 - Receive response from City of Seattle Stakeholders half of the time when we attend city council meeting and send stakeholders emails “X” times per year.
- Julio Perez – Agrees with Commissioner Murray that the percentage doesn’t make sense. Could we instead add a real number that is realistic rather than percentage?

CIC clarifies 0% in 2023 (no stakeholder attended meeting).

- Staff Liaison Edwards – Reiterated and reminded the group of the overarching goal of gathering feedback from community through the CIC meetings and attending meetings in community to listen.
- Co-chair White - Going to the Highland Park Action Committee (HPAC) meeting on 1/24 and welcomed others to join.
- Staff liaison Jenkins asked Marcus to clarify his role at the HPAC meeting since this is the first time the commission has heard about it.
 - Co-chair White – Want to enhance the efficacy of the CIC. Go there to explain what we do, and see where the conversation leads, and relay what the community is saying back to the commission to see if there is any progress that can come from that.
 - Commissioner Murray offered that when commissioners attend public meetings, they should be specific about starting statements something like, “I am a community member of the community involvement commission, but here stating my own personal views and speaking for myself.”
- Julio Perez recommended using a realistic number as a goal instead of zero.
- Staff Liaison Jenkins asked the intent behind the goal? What is the commission getting out of it?
- Co-chair White - Quid pro Quo. Making sure the commission is aligned with Council/Mayor/Department goals.
 - Commissioner Wiger asked is the goal to create more visibility to Council and other city staff? Less about percentage, but more about visibility?

- Staff Liaison Jenkins reiterated the subcommittee titles and how each goal is a function of the individual subcommittees.
 - Commissioner Murray – Is the goal to invite to our meeting or attend public meetings for exposure and stay in email communication with them? I would like to see CIC meetings more focused on furthering work and be able to connect with them outside of meeting times to make out commission meetings more productive.
 - Commissioner Kone – Reiterated the commission’s mission. We should be part of working toward that mission and priorities. Also building trust and being seen as a community advocate, acting on their behalf. Would like to see this a little simpler and easier to follow. Should have an open communication with them to find out what some of their bigger priorities are/activities/initiatives where CIC can contribute and collaborate. What is the city doing and where can we step in to help. This makes us visible and puts us in a position to advocate for more equitable communities.
- Staff Liaison Jenkins – with 15 min left in the agenda item, should we continue discussing or should the subcommittees continue this discussion around the goals and bring back to the next meeting? The Commission needs to move forward with the draft goals so that everyone knows where the focus is.
 - Commissioner Kone – Get a copy of the top priorities, and then decide what we can do to help. We need to be present, but we can’t produce what to do, we need to see their agenda/priorities to see how we can insert ourselves.
 - Commissioner Murray – Move to table the goal discussion to our subcommittee meeting and move forward with the rest of the agenda. Create goals that are not based on percentages but put uses specific numbers.
 - Asked commission to second the motion.
 - Commissioner White – Declined to second Commissioner Murray’s motion. Would like to discuss it now. We should increase our attendance in meetings.
 - Commissioner Kone – We could do both. But agrees with Commissioner Murray that we could do this more efficiently in the subcommittees.
 - Co-chair White – would like to get this done now, we want to fill the chairs in this meeting and get more participation for council, mayor, and city departments.
 - Staff Liaison Edwards – Order of operations... is it more important to get people in the meeting, to hear feedback, then engage city staff?
 - Co-chair White – Important to get both. Would like to see a cycle of public comments to council and council to back to the public.
 - Commissioner Morisset – Agrees with co-chair White, finalize something now and produce changes for the next meeting.
- Staff Liaison Jenkins – Clarifying if the group is deciding on the goals that are here now and at the next meeting commissioners mention additional potential goals as well.
 - Commissioner Morisset - Get something on paper and if someone feels passionate about it enough to change it, we can address it at the next meeting, that way we aren’t spending time (in the weeds).
- Staff Liaison Jenkins asked the group to put a yes in the chat if they all agree with commissioner Morisset.
 - Those in Favor: Morisset, Rajan, Wiger, Seo, and White
 - Unsure: Kone
 - Didn’t vote: Southern (not present at the time), Murray, Perez (non-appointed), Lucas (not present at the time), Reeves, and Jannon-Shields
- Commissioner Seo – Recruitment and Retention subcommittee.

- Talked about a potential exit survey with 4 - 5 questions.
 - What are we missing from the questions (draft questions shared on screen)?
 - Talked about serving the government's needs vs serving what the community's needs are.
 - Attending community meetings that Director Chao is attending to see what community asks are.
- Commissioner Kone – Increasing Visibility subcommittee.
 - Met in December – White, Murray, Kone, and Morisset
 - Talked about how to make ourselves visible.
 - Action items:
 - Attend council meetings and events.
 - Attending community events.
 - Hold community meetings in different neighborhoods.
 - Social media platform (to promote communication and visibility)
 - Invite 2 community groups to attend meetings to share about their organization and their needs.
- Commissioner Wiger – How is the commission involved with Get out and Vote and other voting efforts?
 - Staff Liaison Jenkins – Consulted City Attorney, doesn't fit within the scope of the commission's work. Also, there are potential conflicts around the optics of participating in voting efforts. Could be seen as partisan.
 - Commissioner Wiger - Not sure how to connect with the subcommittee. How does this process work?
 - Staff Liaison Jenkins provided more clarification around subcommittee chair role in setting up meetings.
 - The subcommittee could be waiting to meet until commission goals are finalized.
- Staff Liaison Jenkins – Confirming that the commission is proposing to vote on the goals as-is and make future edits.
 - May need more clarity around the wording.
 - Co-Chair White made recommendations to simply increase feedback goal according to Commissioner Kone's recommendation.
 - Julio asked about AI as community attendance (AI bot in the meeting).
 - Co-chair White - reconfirming with commissioners that they would like to complete the goals in meeting.
 - Commissioner Morisset – Would like to simplify so that we can move forward now. Change later (if necessary).
 - Commissioner Wiger - Can we make the goal simpler by combining the first 2 bullet points?
 - Staff Liaison Jenkins – clarifies goals with commissioners.
- Commissioner Southern inquired about using Seattle Channel.
 - Staff Liaisons mentioned they would follow up with a response from Comms team. Difficult to get a segment on Seattle channel.
 - Will get back to the group with process.
- Commissioner Southern proposes to change MLK day events to Cultural and Community events in the goals.

- Staff Liaison Jenkins - Confirms that the commission is moving to vote on goals as-is, with a caveat that there is time to discuss/make changes edits in the future.
 - Commissioners in favor
 - White - yes
 - Morisset – yes
 - Seo - yes
 - Wiger – yes
 - Rajan – yes
 - Reeves – yes
 - Jannon-Shields - yes
 - Murray - yes
 - Southern – yes
 - Kone - yes
 - Commissioner Murray – For future votes, we need to have a regular structure in place. Say “Ye” or “Nay” or abstain. Also, it is important to get everyone’s vote on the record (regardless of majority rules). Process is important, especially for transparency to the public.

Discussion and vote on letter to new City Councilmembers

- Commissioner Kone – Overview of the draft letter to welcome new council members and make the commission known.
 - Staff Liaison Jenkins - Clarification on bylaws regarding any language going out to any entity beyond the commission (needs to be confirmed by commission as a whole).
 - Commissioners, Murray, Southern, and Reeves chime in to make recommendations on edits.
 - Staff liaison Jenkins reiterated the importance of composition since many Council members are new. Also recommend removing “Council District” and change to “Council” because it could give the impression that community is voting on an individual for CIC, not the Council member.
 - Commission Staff have conversation around the letter and make edits.
 - Commissioner Kone – Move to approve the letter so that it gets sent out to council.
 - Commissioners in favor
 - White - yes
 - Southern - yes
 - Kone - yes
 - Seo - yes
 - Murray - yes
 - Rajan - yes
 - Morrisett - yes
 - Reeves - yes
 - Jannon Sheid - yes
 - Wiger – yes

Staff Liaison Updates

- Staff Liaison Updates:
 - Meeting time Change

- Vote to approve new meeting date and time, per poll results (Start time changed to 5pm, 3rd Monday the month)
 - Move to approve? Yes
 - Commissioners in favor
 - White – yes
 - Southern - yes
 - Kone - yes
 - Seo - yes
 - Murray - yes
 - Rajan - yes
 - Morrisett - yes
 - Reeves - yes
 - Jannon-Shields - yes
 - Wiger - yes

Community Comments & Closing

No community comments.

The meeting was adjourned.

January and February Subcommittee Minutes