**Seattle Human Rights Commission**

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, February 2, 2017, 6:00–8:00 p.m.

City Hall - Boards and Commissions Room

**Commissioners Present:** Danielle Wallace, Bill Dow, Jeremy Wood, Pauline Alvarado, Tammy Morales, Sarah Bishop, Fedaku Shibeshi

**Phone:** Marcel Baugh (from 6:15-6:45)

**Guests:** Phillip Hoffman, students from Eastside Catholic, others wanting to get involved, Peter Handel

**Commissioners Absent:** Amy Huang, Alice Serko, Ashley Miller, Edlira Kuka, Jonathan Nichols, Lara Diaconu, Yasmin Christopher

**SOCR Staff Present:** Marta Idowu

Welcome and Introductions

**Call to Order:** By Jeremy Wood at 6:07 pm

**Public Comment:**

Phillip Hoffman—thanks staff, would like to change the name of Stevens Street—named after Isaac Stevens. Ask is that we endorse notion of re-memorialization of Stevens Street, recognize what he did and we move away from this past.

**Approval of Minutes:** Bill moves to approve pending later found spelling/grammatical errors, Danielle seconds, no opposed, no abstentions. Approved.

**SOCR update:** Brenda is preparing a blurb update to send to us. Pauline and Jeremy were on a call with Patty and Brenda:

Call was about three items: (1) re-thinking of the Youth Jail after Murray letter, and what SOCR is suggesting is to write a letter of support with us with a more restorative justice approach to facility, (2) what is going to happen with next executive order from Trump administration with regard to religious freedom, it is about trying to protect demographic data of employees/commissioners. Would include any data collected regarding to gender/sexuality. Past and future applications for LGBTQ commission contain that information, and (3) with regard to SeaTac demonstrations and reports of pepper spray incidents. SPD did not have any involvement in that incident. There was a question that came up in regard to DHS presence and it is really a balancing act of whose jurisdiction it is. Concern was also raised that SPD officers, regardless of whether they deployed spray by themselves, may have been corralling demonstrators into the way of officers making arrests.

Tammy mentions EO that is being ordered that says businesses have religious freedom not to serve people that they do not like, and concern is that next step might be collecting data on people who would be impacted by that. It was a request by the commissions to think about how they collect the data that they are collecting for commission applications and other work that they are doing. City is careful about it being anonymous, Tammy mentions that other commissions could be targets if that information is available.

Jeremy asks if SOCR ever comes across data regarding immigration data, Marta says SOCR not allowed to and does not.

Bill asks about DHS presence downtown, Jeremy says that was discussed and conversation was about jurisdiction. Bill also asks about letter for new youth jail, commission agrees that more discussion needs to occur before any action taken.

Marta says there is an overwhelming amount of things to do and calls, trying to stay on top of it.

Jeremy asks if SOCR has been hearing much on hate crime reporting, Marta says they have but she does not know of anything new that has arisen. Sarah asks if there has been advertising, Marta says yes. Sarah also asks on whether there have been other departments receiving action related to hate crimes, Marta does not know. Brenda said at the last meeting it may be brought up in this meeting. Danielle asks whether SHRC can actively support SOCR efforts, wonders if it can happen biweekly, and would give us time before the next meeting.

Marta asks whether we knew if there was a weekly report from commissions. Sarah asks whether this has happened in the past.

Jeremy says Mayor putting together rapid response team and new board for issues, asks that SHRC be included in list-serv.

**Appeals and Hearings Update:** Lara is not here, Marta sent out about upcoming hearings.

May have an appeal on February 20, 2017 at 1pm, Pauline can cover, Fekadu can cover.

We should send out an email RE: March 7, 17, April 18.

**Action items:**

**Secretary Election—**Bill elected, will continue taking minutes.

**PUBLIC COMMENT BREAK:** Peter Handel worried about railroading of a sane person because she offended a doctor. Asks that we ask Judge Spector to do something, Jeremy says we will look into it, Bill says there probably isn’t anything we can do legally or ethically but we will follow up with you individually.

**Response to refugee ban/ call update**

Jeremy asks where the commission can get involvement. Tammy says that it is great that the Council and Mayor came out publicly to support status as a sanctuary city. Tammy wonders whether a declaration of support will do anything other than put us on the record. Jeremy says he is not comfortable that cops can be called in to act against the city policy.

Bill says there is value in a symbolic resolution even if it does not mean anything, says there is room for us to do something to allay Jeremy’s concerns. Says that a request for a special meeting for an omnibus proposal would be valid, offers ECOSOC.

Fekadu says blocking people based on nationality itself not our values, says we should stand as a commission on our values. Sarah says that stating those values even without a large impact is important. Says there is value in having statements so we can put it out if we are asked for the statements. Jeremy says having a framework to draw upon in those urgent calls would be important.

Danielle says that releasing this kind of statement would be good for community engagement, would also be good on social media. Says that if we were to do an event, we should coordinate with SOCR and potentially put funding toward an event.

Tammy wonders whether we should issue a joint press release on value. Bill agrees, but says we should push the policy forward.

Marta says the five commission meeting is 2/8 5:30-7:30, Mayor’s Office will be there to discuss the EOs.

Commission agrees to propose a five commission statement and then a date. Danielle says the timing might be a little delayed. Sarah suggests community feedback and, based on that feedback, we make recommendations to the city about further efforts beyond being a sanctuary city.

Bill moves for ECOSOC/executive to create draft statement and plan aforesaid meeting. Tammy seconded. All approve, no rejection and abstention.

**Wells Fargo divestment**

Bill moves to approve proposed letter or substantially similar letter in wake of Committee vote. Sarah wants to include Human Rights language.

Tammy suggests that we add Human Rights language and make it more bare-bones. Bill accepts as friendly. Danielle moves to approve, Tammy seconds. All approve, no opposed, no abstentions.

**Commission expansion update**

Danielle explains situation—we met with David Mendoza and MO about increasing commission to 21 with additional 4 commissioners as commission-appointment.

Bill states that we drafted our own proposed legislation. Jeremy says Women’s Commission unanimously supported, LGBTQ says they support the principle of it and are tired of bureaucratic/administrative hassles, Jeremy says he hopes to get some clarity at the meeting. Seattle Commission for People with disAbilities were not able to get quorum at the last meeting, but are generally supportive. Will be brought up at Five Commissions Meeting.

Jeremy suggests that people who are interested meet after the 2/8 5 commission meeting.

**Facilitator cost approval**

Danielle says the potential facilitator is $140 per hour, we had initially thought five hours but this may be too generous. Danielle is proposing a $500 allocation for facilitation cost. City has given $2000 budget for the commission.

Marta says there are City facilitators potentially available for free. Sarah suggests that we try to use them and keep this as a backup. Bill motions, Tammy seconds, all approve, no oppose or abstain.

Danielle motions for $300 coffee/muffins/lunch for the day. Bill seconds. All in favor, no opposed or abstentions.

**Youth jail discussion**

Tammy suggests that we ask to see the facility and that we do our own diligence. Jeremy says he chatted with Nikita Oliver recently, anti-detention campaign is planning on doing their own response to Mayor’s letter.

Tammy says that she can call and ask for a tour.

**Count Us In response**

Results in April 2016. We will respond then.

**MDARs**

Jeremy asks Marta about SOCR’s role in the MDARs and future encampment sweeps, Marta says SOCR will have further oversight.

Bill suggests that we propose our continued support of SOCR’s involvement in sweeps oversight. Danielle suggests that we ask for MOU established for a five-year period with SOCR involvement. Maybe that is the formal process of having SOCR involved.

Danielle suggests that we offer housing to people as they come.

Sarah suggests that we should always have housing. It would respect people’s human rights to suggest housing for them to move into.

Sarah says we should not oppose date/time, Danielle suggests the number of people (estimated). Jeremy says that he hopes that does not obstruct providers.

Danielle motions that it goes to ECOSOC for proposal and submission by rulemaking deadline, Fekadu seconds, all approve, no reject, no abstain.

**Executive Team Update:**

**Retreat planning** –

Tammy says that before we start thinking about the workplan, that is the time to have a broader conversation about what is human rights, why we do it, what other cities are doing and how it is done well, and quickly review some of the international documents that we reference to get some explanation of why we should include those when we go advocate to the City Council. What does it mean that that is the lens we are using when we are working on City work?

Jeremy suggests moving that up the RSJ Activity. Bill says plenty of time in the first hour, Jeremy agrees. Sarah does not want to take time away from RSJ activity, Marta says she is going to move forward on this. Tammy wishes that we include economic justice and the right to make a living as a human right, suggests we talk about what those rights are. Tammy will lead that part of the discussion.

Jeremy will circulate list of case studies in Google Doc.

Bill moves to approve proposed agenda, Pauline seconds. All approve, no opposition/abstentions.

**Commissioner development update**

The potential applicant as an intern needs to know by next week, then on board for 12 weeks to do research and other things. She is looking at May. We will follow up with her.

**Jeremy motions to adjourn at 8:06pm, Bill seconds.**