**Seattle Human Rights Commission**

**Meeting Minutes**

Thursday, January 5, 2016, 6:00–8:00 p.m.

City Hall - Boards and Commissions Room

**Commissioners Present:**   Amy Huang, William Dow, Jeremy Wood, Danielle Wallace, Ashley Miller, Yasmin Christopher, Alice Serko (On-call), Pauline Alvarado (On-call), Marcel Baugh (On-call), Jonathan Nichols (On-call), Alice Serko (On-call)

**Guests**: Representative from Machinists human rights board.

**Commissioners Absent:**Edlira Kuka, Sarah Bishop, Tammy Morales, Yasmine Christopher, Fekadu Shibeshi,

**SOCR Staff Present:** Brenda Anibarro

**Welcome and Introductions**

**Call to Order:**  Danielle Wallace

**Public Comment**:

* Seattle Youth Commission, Kaileah Mayer: After election, the Youth Commission noticed their peers at school feeling unsafe. In response, the Youth Commission is reaching out to the SHRC for a partnership and suggestions reaching the press to release a Solidarity Letter they have drafted. The Youth Commission would like to release the Solidarity Letter on Inauguration Day.
* Dr. Thurston: Dr. Thurston is a dentist and has been providing dental services to patient, Alma Chung. Recently, Dr. Thurston visited Chung at a facility in which her human rights are being violated: denied access to family members, no basic health care services, patient in “terrible circumstances and has lost 30-40lbs.” Dr. Thurston is seeking support by SHRC for recommendations on ways to provide freedom to Chung. SHRC will look at jurisdiction and review letter that Dr. Thurston provided.

**Approval of Minutes:** Minutes approved with edits; motioned to approve by William Dow and seconded by Ashley Miller

**SOCR Report:**

* Fair Chance for Housing: A stake holder meeting was held; every person with a conviction would require a thorough investigation to look at the Fair Credit Reporting Act.
	+ Marcel Baugh, Co-Chair, attended stake holder meeting and advocated that 7 years is too long and pushing to reduce to 2 years.
	+ SOCR advocating for individualized assessment; currently in discussion with stake holders and have no current legislation drafted.
* Source of Income: Process is delayed until June as landlords need more time to address the First-In-Time ordinance; City Council granted the request.
* SOCR hotline to report discrimination and harassment: SOCR will launch campaign in the next two weeks for the hotline; SOCR is currently working with the Seattle Police Department to make sure certain calls go directly to 911 and identifying calls that are bias-related and a harassment issue.
	+ SHRC suggested using a model like the City’s “Find It Fix It” app; SOCR brought up the idea to SPD and now looking at the app as an option to include bias situations
* SOCR has a new RSJI Manager, Lamont Green
* SOCR will be tabling at the upcoming Citizenship Day in partnership with the Office of Immigrant and Refugee Affairs

**Appeals and Hearing Update:**

* Three SHR Commissioners needed for upcoming appeals panel on January 23rd at 1pm:
	+ Pauline Alvarado and Ashley Miller volunteered to attend the appeals panel. Co-Chair will send an email to the rest of the Commissioners to identify another volunteer to attend
* Hearing scheduled for February has been dismissed as of today, no hearings forthcoming.

**ACTION ITEMS:**

* SHR Commission Co-Chair Election Elections:
	+ Jeremy Wood (accepted nomination)
	+ Pauline Alvarado (accepted nomination)
	+ Tammy Morales (respectfully declined)
	+ Danielle Wallace (respectfully declined)
	+ Marcel Baugh (removed from nomination; will continue serving his two-year term)
		- Moved to approve Pauline Alvarado as Co-Chair by Ashley Miller, seconded by William Dow; Abstained by Pauline Alvarado
		- Moved to approve Jeremy Wood as Co-Chair by William Dow, seconded by Ashley Miller.
* Nomination of Secretary Position:
	+ William Dow (self-nomination)
		- SHRC will vote during next month’s meeting
* SOCR monitoring of encampments:
	+ SOCR was replaced by FAS to monitor encampments
	+ SHR ECOSC Taskforce asked for explanation by the Mayor’s office
		- Mayor’s Office responded and stated that it was never a plan for SOCR to be involved in long-term monitoring of the encampments; however, SOCR will be folded to long-term goals and strategies. SOCR understood that their involvement would be short term because of an MOA and they anticipated this.
		- Moved for ECOSOC Taskforce to respond to Mayor Ed Murray’s letter with comments by Jeremy Wood, seconded by Danielle Wallace.
* Arts Commission Support Letter:
	+ Arts Committee released statement regarding affordable housing; ECOSOC Taskforce provided letter of support and want to give SHR Commission the opportunity to provide edits
	+ ECOSOC will wait on further edits. Motioned by Danielle Wallace, Seconded by Ashley Miller
* Seattle Youth Commission Support Letter:
	+ Draft a letter to support the Youth Commission’s Solidarity Letter with the 5 Commission Chair
	+ Action to draft letter to support before Inauguration, including their letter to the press
	+ Motion to approve letter containing the Seattle Youth Commission letter by Jeremy Woods, seconded by Ashley Miller
* Anti-Boycott Legislation:
	+ Occupation Free Seattle requested SHRC to support opposition to state legislation that would strip public post secondary institutions of funding if they supported boycotts against Israeli occupation.

**Taskforce Chairs Update:**

* CPR: Safe Consumption Site letter was written, included many facts and figures; wants to release statement in support of VOCAL and LGBTQ letter.
* ECOSOC: no updates
* CIRT: no updates

**Executive Team Update:**

* SHR Commission Annual Retreat:
	+ After doodle poll, February 25th is the best date for annual retreat
	+ Lara will follow-up with Appeals Trainer to provide training during retreat
	+ Retreat planners: Jeremy Wood, Ashley Miller, Alice Serko and Jonathan Nichols
	+ Topics of interest to Commissioners:
		- Learning the skill sets and community networks of the Commission
		- Building community
		- Internal Commission development
		- Work Plans for 2017
		- Task Force structures
		- SOCR’s assessment

**Human Rights Day Debrief:**

* SHR Commission would want to debrief with SOCR
* Comments:
	+ Moving forward, identify a Human Rights Day Planning Committee to clearly define roles
	+ Communication between SOCR and SHR must be established early on
	+ Video to highlight awardees was a great tool
	+ Wanted awardees more time to speak when they received their awards

**Meeting Adjourned at 7:50pm**