



City of Seattle

Edward B. Murray, Mayor

Seattle LGBTQ Commission

Julia Ricciardi, Ray Corona, Manuel Venegas, Co-Chairs

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, April 20, 2017 | 6:30-8:30pm

Seattle City Hall, Boards & Commissions Conference Room L-280

600 4th Avenue, Seattle Washington

Commissioners present: Blaine Leal, Julia Ricciardi, Ray Corona, Manuel Venegas, Anders McChonachie, Luzviminda “Lulu” Carpenter, Hannah Johnson

Absent:

Meeting minutes recorded by: Hannah Johnson

Guests: Nikki Hurley, Toni Sarge—Q Card Project, Mary Sigward Spectrum Dance, Nia Minor, Luke Wigran, Latosha Crow Mistresspiece Theater, Samira Shirdelle Queers Against Apartheid, Leila Sudan Queers Against Apartheid, Katrina Stanford Potential Commissioner

Public Comment

Nia and Mary, Spectrum Dance Theater: Preparing new work, Impulse, responds to Pulse Night Club Tragedy. 3 part series on American Identity. Seeking LGBTQ Activists to speak to violence on a panel sponsored by Spectrum and Crosscut, moderated by David Ingram, hoping to moderate the discussion especially pertaining toward violence. Looking for moderators who can speak to performance arts and LGBTQ issues. Any information about violence prevention. Spectrum is open to inviting the community.

- Deadline for finding people: Mid-May.

Toni Sarge, UW Public Health: Capstone project on the Q Card project. Small business communications tool for youth and those who serve youth. Offers a place to write pronouns, things you want to talk about, portion to leave with providers. Qcardproject.com

- Question: Is there a conversation to expand to use with other types of providers?
- Q Cards are at lots of space that youth use, but are geared toward health.
- Question: Is it available in other languages?
- Available in Vietnamese and Spanish. Translated by LGBTQ youth with language skills. There is interest in disseminating in more languages.

Motion to allow Queers Against Israeli Apartheid to speak prior to Community Event Debrief. Approving February Minutes: motion to approve passes.

March minutes: Motion to approve with changes passes.

Agenda: Motion to move Community Event Debrief to 7:20 pm. Motion to approve the agenda passes.

Work Plans

- Work plans will outline Internal Affairs, P&DCC, Community Education and Outreach
- POC Stakeholders Committee will be added as forthcoming
- Independent projects should be discussed with Internal Affairs to clarify the role of independent projects. This will be discussed at a later meeting.
- Motion to approve the work plan with amendments passes.

SOCR Report

- CRUEDA Committee meeting upcoming, Commissions are presenting work plans. Tuesday May 23 at 10am. Co-chairs and other Commissioners will present work plans.
- Commissioner inquires about opportunities to meet with Council and Committee Members in the evening.
- Introducing Katrina Sanford, Mayor's Office Recommendation to take over Dominique Stevens' seat.
- Reappointment process: some commissioners are in process of reappointment. New commissioner interviews are 4/21 and 4/22. Most reappointments are not until November.
- Human Rights Commission proposal to expand commissions: Letter was well-received. Next steps forthcoming.
- Someone is visiting from Berlin and would like to meet with the Commission, Erika will send more information.
- Aging LGBTQ Equity forum, Julia is involved.

Commission Reminder:

After four absences, that is considered a resignation from the Commission.

Committee Reports:

- **IA:** 13 people applied for Commission seats. 11 interviews scheduled.
 - Bylaw changes: Adding Q, specifying absences for work or scheduled travel should be communicated in advance, unexpected absences should be communicated as soon as possible. Terms and vacancies align with ordinance language. Group values and conversation norms added.
 - Motion to approve bylaws passes unanimously.
- **Community Education and Outreach:**
 - Tracking community interactions and event attendance.
- **POC Stakeholder Committee:**
 - Vote for Blaine to be co-chair passes unanimously.
- **P&DCC:**

- Finished work plan, added pieces in collaboration with Blaine on Democracy Vouchers.
- **Snapshot Survey:**
 - Commissioners will update Blaine. Yani accepted a full time position at Gender Justice League, congratulations Yani! Yani will loop in Commission when report is being written.
 - Commission can support outreach during Pride to fill out Survey, including printing a flyer for outreach.

Community Event Debrief & Mayor Debrief

- Erika provides context and the possibility of an outside facilitator. Absent a vote from the Commission, Commissioners should clarify that they represent themselves as Commissioners.
- Blaine reads his letter.
- Discussion of allegations. Commissioners share perspectives, specifically with regard to Commission values and the use of criminal records to discredit allegations.
- Motion to send a letter on behalf of the Commission passes.

Public comment from Queers Against Israeli Apartheid

- **Samira Shifdeh:** sharing views on Lt. Erez meeting. Event does not further rights of LGBTQ people. Tour was sponsored by Israeli military. Pinkwashing depicts Israel as a progressive state. Urges Commission to look past Pinkwashing strategies and see reality. Event was violation of Boycott Divestment and Sanctions movement. Particularly applies to events funded by Israeli government.
- Question: did this hurt the community? Yes, for a longtime working to raise this issue, hurts our Palestinian queer community, hurts racial justice as a whole.
- **Leila Swedan:** Loss of institutional memory. Request for statement to be kept in the record, attached to these minutes. In holding the event, Commission was made a tool. Queer Palestinian American, event shows that she is unwelcome in the Commission's community. Previous decision to cancel previously was a rare and precious acknowledgement of Palestinian humanity. Asks us to choose in the future to act in a way that build's trust.
- Commissioner: admits that mistakes were made. Question about whether other city agencies have been contacted?
- Response: Commission is the agency that is responsible to this community.
- Commissioner: intent behind invitations was intended to bring other voices.
- Commissioner: commission needs to change and have a deeper conversation.
- Commissioner: further question about other agencies that were contacted or protested against.
- Response: Stand With Us is a hate group. Group is here because this is the LGBTQ Commission.
- Normalize perspectives by trying to create a panel. Asks us to not participate.
- Yani and Lulu read their letters.