



City of Seattle

Ed Murray, Mayor

**Seattle Women's Commission**

**MINUTES**

Seattle Women's Commission  
Boards and Commissions Conference Room L280  
600 Fourth Avenue, City Hall  
***Monday, April 21, 2014, 5:30 –7:30 p.m.***

**Commissioners Present:** Mercedes Elizalde, W.M. Gillihan, Alison Mondí, Bridgette Maryman, Michele Frix, Morgan Beach, Lylianna Allala, Susana Tat, Clarissa Lord Brundage, Betsy McConnell Gutierrez, Phyllis Lewis, Jennifer Cobb

**Commissioners: Absent/Excused/Leave, Mergitu Argo,** Nicki Olivier, Elsa-Batres-Boni, Roslyn Kagy, Jaron Goddard, Maha Jahshan

**Guests:** CM Jean Godden, Alex Zimmerman, Tiffany Hankins, Wayne Barnett, Lauren Othon and Barbara Talkington

**Public comment:**

- Alex Zimmerman comments about him not being fairly treated.

**Next steps for the Equal Pay Taskforce and Focus on Gender Equity – Council Member Jean Godden**

- CM Godden thanked us for our work to start address gender wage inequality.
- The Taskforce has the following action steps: collect better demographic data to find out where wage disparities lie by department; develop training to address gender inequity in the workplace; develop and implement paid parental leave policy; create new programs to support women in the workplace (leadership, management, and recruitment).
- The Taskforce has been looking primarily within the City of Seattle and will start to look externally to work with local business groups.
- The Taskforce will report back to the SWC and will be asking for our help in the following ways: attend Taskforce events; hold the Taskforce accountable to planned action steps; review and support the recommendations from the Taskforce to make sure we are aligned; and participate in community conversations.

**Commission Ethics – Wayne Barnett**

- City resources cannot be used to promote or oppose a ballot measure that goes to the public; Commissioners can weigh in on legislative measures that are presented to the City Council.

- Commissioners should not misuse their position or City resources.
- If the SWC hires consultants/interns, we need to disclose any conflicts of interest.
- Commissioners cannot accept gifts or meals from community members or stakeholders.
- If SWC invites proponents of a measure, we should also invite opponents and vice versa.
- Michele and Wendy will explore adding a conflict of interest section on the guest request form.
- Wayne can be contacted at 206-684-8577.

### **Race and Social Justice Initiative Update – Lylianna Allala**

- Lylianna attended the Race and Social Justice Initiative meeting and event with the Mayor. She would like to work on this formally with other Commissioners.
- Wendy would like to incorporate gender inequity and race and social justice into all our sub-committee workplans. Bridgette thinks that at the workplan retreat, we should incorporate RSJI throughout and then determine how we can hold ourselves accountable.
- If anyone is interested in working on this, they should contact Lauren Othon.

### **Neighborhood House – Susana Tat**

- Susana presented on Neighborhood House project to examine RSJI issues in High Point and Yesler Terrace.
- The Community-Oriented Public Health Practice group (MPH students at UW) focused on identifying barriers to access to community centers through scholarships. Recommendations to Seattle Parks & Rec included:
  - Equitable access to recreation programs
    - Centralized scholarships (instead of by neighborhood, like it is now)
    - Standardize scholarship awards across community centers
  - Create sustainable system
    - Increase staffing and database development for the scholarship office
    - Community staff pre-approval
    - Single access card for all programs
  - Streamline scholarship application process
    - Develop MOU
    - Institute a rolling process for enrollment
- Meet with CM Bagshaw on May 8 at 10 a.m. to discuss findings and recommendations. All Commissioners are welcome.

### **Seattle Police Department – Jaron Reed**

- Jaron was absent and will report back at the next meeting.
- Wendy will talk to CM Godden to explore inviting SPD and Fire to the June meeting.

### **NARAL Pro-Choice Washington and Hyde Amendment Resolution – Tiffany Hankins**

- The Hyde amendment is a federal law that was passed in 1976 to ban use of federal funding for abortion.
- Part of a long-term strategy to examine disparities in funding for abortion is to ask the City Council to repeal the Hyde amendment at the federal level.
- NARAL and Legal Voice want to use this opportunity to expand the scope to have a dual track in the City and County Council. They have support amongst both bodies, but there is no sense of urgency.
- NARAL and Legal Voice are asking the SWC to:
  - Write a letter to the Council to support the resolution.
  - Support educational events on reproductive health care funding and disparities.
- Bridgette will revise the existing letter that supports the resolution.

#### **Proposed amendments to the bylaws – Bridgette Maryman**

- If anyone is interested in amendments to the bylaws, contact Michele, Liz, or Mercedes.

#### **SWC website – Morgan Beach**

- Morgan met with City web designer to walk through new layout to update content, photos, etc.
- Morgan is sharing revised content with Jaron, Wendy and Bridgette to proofread.
- Morgan plans to share a screenshot version at the May meeting.
- Morgan will share the bio template with Commissioners and Commissioners will send revised bios back to Morgan.
- Committee co-chairs should send a description of the sub-committees to Morgan.

#### **Jeanette Williams Award and Pride Parade – Marta Idowu**

- The Commission will focus on the theme of economic equity for the Jeanette Williams Award.
- The economic equity sub-committee will lead the nomination process.
- Let Marta know if you will be walking in Pride with the City Contingency. Give her your shirt size for your free t-shirt.

#### **SOCR update – Lauren Othon**

- Lauren shared information on the Gender Equity Taskforce resolutions and recommendations.

Meeting **adjourned at 7:30p**

**NEXT COMMISSION MEETING: May 19, 2014 Boards and Commissions Conference Room L280**

**FIVE COMMISSION MEETINGS: May 14, 2014, August 13, 2014, November 12, 2014 5:30 PM, 810 Third Avenue, Suite 750, Seattle, WA.**