

Seattle Immigrant and Refugee Commission

April 7, 2015 (6:00-8:00 PM)

Seattle City Hall, Room 370

Meeting Minutes

Commissioners Present: Tsegaba Woldehaimanot, Jeniffer Calleja, Michele Ramirez, Mohamed Adan, Riddhi Mukhopadhyay, Roxana Norouzi, Kianoush Naficy, Simon Khin

Commissioners Absent: Dori Cahn, Mindy Au, Farhiya Mohamed, Veasna Adrian Hoy

Guests: John Schroeder, Claudia D'Allegri, Thanh Tan, Dori Costa, Andres Mantilla

OIRA Staff Present: Sahar Fathi

Call to Order: 6:05 pm

Welcome (Co-Chairs)

Jen opened the meeting and introduced the briefing by the Community Police Commission

Community Police Commission (Claudia)

Claudia explained the history of the Community Police Commission (CPC) and the various policies they have been reviewing. CPC has contracted with the community to get feedback and had over 1000 surveys, of which 75% were from people of color. She explained that they have been looking at accountability and are working on a gap analysis around how the police department engages with the community. The CPC has taken specific positions, like on body cameras. They have all of their information on their website. People with specific concerns should file complaints with SPD. CPC has participated in SPD trainings and their focus has largely been in Seattle.

SDOT Presentation (Andres, Dori)

Andres and Dori went through [this](#) PowerPoint. SDOT is rolling out a replacement levy of \$900 million over the next 9 years. They would like to hear feedback and would like the Commission to support in distributing information.

The Commission indicated that the SDOT team should go to the community directly, and asked about equity outcomes for the levy dollars. There were concerns that with the increased cost of living in Seattle, none of their communities would be able to benefit from the levy investments. There was another suggestion that SDOT work with the local community based organizations to get feedback.

Director's Report (Sahar)

Sahar reported in lieu of Cuc. She gave highlights on Ready to Work and Refugee Women's Institute.

Emerging Trends (All)

The group paused to recognize Shree's contributions to the commission with a proclamation from the Mayor. There were updates on appointments and the Youth Summit. Michele spoke to her experience with a Parks focus group and indicated she was the only person of color and that there need to be more conversation about the people in the neighborhoods being impacted. Riddhi spoke to a request from CTTAB to provide feedback on digital technology and how to engage the immigrant and refugee communities.

Subcommittee Updates (All)

Sahar announced that she would set up times to meet with the different subcommittees to understand structure and do a general check-in. There were concerns that the commission wasn't as influential as it could be and added concern that there could be more work done around briefings from departments. Many people come in to do a briefing and don't have an actual "ask" – the commission will work on creating a fact sheet on how to best present information for commissioners.

Announcements (All)

Jen made an announcement about the Pride Parade and asked for volunteers to sign up with her directly.

Adjourn

8:00 pm.