

Seattle Human Rights Commission
Meeting Minutes
Thursday May 5, 2016, 6:00–8:00 p.m.
City Hall - Boards and Commissions Room

Commissioners Present: Lara Diaconu, Marcel Baugh, Danielle Wallace, Jason Poydras, Margaret Babayan, Amy Huang, Sarah Bishop

Commissioners by Phone: Edlira Kuka

Commissioners Absent: Ashley Miller, Fekadu Shibishi (unconfirmed), Jeremy Wood (unconfirmed), Tammy Morales (unconfirmed)

SOCR Staff Present: Mike Chin, Marta Idowu

Visitors Present: Five interested Commission applicants were present

Welcome and Introductions

Call to Order: The meeting is called to order by Danielle Wallace

Public Comment: Representatives from Jewish Voice for Peace voiced their appreciation for the Commission’s consideration of a resolution in support of divestment from companies such as Caterpillar, HP and Motorola that benefit from the Occupation of Palestine.

Approval of Minutes: Minutes for April approved with edits

- Minutes were approved.¹

SOCR Report

- SOCR has completed another round of housing discrimination testing, and charges against 23 private landlords will be made. The test revealed that 60% of the discrimination findings were based on source of income, in general the use of a Section 8 voucher.
- SOCR attended the Education Summit, no details were available.
- On the appeals case that was found by the Commission to be untimely, the SOCR will reissue the finding and include the reason for reissuance in the finding in order to document the process. The reissuance will give the petitioner the opportunity to resubmit a request for appeal.

¹Minute taking began late.

Executive Team Update:

- Human rights day planning -- Date is December 8, Amy Huang volunteered for Committee
- Pride participation -- June 26, if you want to march with the SHRC, let Margaret know ASAP your t-shirt size, Margaret will compile for Marta
- New Commissioner Update - We're still waiting on appointments of Tammy, Fekadu, Jeremy, and Jasmin. Marta said that Tammy, Fekadu, and Jeremy should be appointed at the May 26 CRUEDA meeting.
- June -- all task forces will need to revise workplans to be finalized for the July meeting.
- Motion to nominate Amy Huang was passed.
 - Votes in favor: all
 - Opposed: none
 - Abstain: none
- Margaret will be stepping down in August

Appeals Update:

- CM Herbold letter sent, Hearing Examiner responded repeating her position. Unclear whether follow up call with Patty Lally is still pending.
- Patty Lally reached out regarding an appeal that was untimely, however, the appeal was late because SOCR did not give proper notice of their finding. Patty would like the Commission to reconsider and hear the appeal, but Commission past 90 day jurisdiction. No authority in rules to reconsider. SOCR to reissue notice. Jason making sure this does not fall through the cracks.
- This month's Appeals panel is May 23rd at 1 p.m. -- Commissioners who will participate include Marcel Baugh, Lara Diaconu, and Margaret Babayan (by phone), Sarah Bishop is backup (by phone)
- 5 hearings pending with the Hearing Examiner's office:
 - May 10 -- not enough commissioners to participate
 - May 18 - Fekadu and Lara (this hearing has since been indefinitely postponed)
 - June 1 - Ashley and Margaret
 - June 20 - Marcel and Sarah Bishop
 - July 13 - Amy and Danielle
- Jeremy expressed interest in Appeals Committee

Commissioner Development Update:

- Press release out, deadline for applications May 31st
- Each Commissioner should engage in active recruitment!
- Interviews will take place early June
- Exit interviews will become a norm
- Edlira and Ashley developing survey to all commissioners
- The city will have an onboarding process for all new commissioners

ECOSOC Update:

- Mayor released Comprehensive Plan 2035, task force planning to submit comment when it's time.
- Sent letter to WSDOT regarding use of funds to build fence around encampment known as "the Jungle," proposed alternatives

CPR Update:

- Meeting was held with new staff person focused on youth detention, looking into the Youth First Initiative which is a movement among states to reduce youth incarceration by half by 2020, WA has not signed on.
- Caedman is interested in attending meetings, was unable to attend Commission meeting because she is at EPIC meeting. She is also working on creating a community asset map, Amy shared map she developed for her fellowship with Caedman

CIRT Update:

- Considering resolution on general divestment in companies that engage in human rights abuses
- Duwamish recognition -- coordinating efforts with CARW, waiting for word from the tribe and then will send a letter of support as soon as possible.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00p

Next Commission Meeting: Thursday, June 2nd, 2016, 6:00-8:00pm, Boards and Commissions Conference Room L-280.