



City of Seattle

Seattle LGBTQ Commission



Meeting Minutes

January 20, 2022 | 6:30 – 8:30 p.m

Virtual Meeting via WebEx

Commissioners Present: Victor Loo, Andrew Ashiofu, Brett Pepowski, Steven Pray, Nate Higby

Commissioners Absent: Jessi Murray, Raja Fouad

SOCR Staff: Janet Stafford, Meredith Stone

Meeting Minutes recorded by: Nate Higby

Guests: Lillian Williamson (Get Engage Commissioner – pending appointment), Schuyler Reid (SHRC)

Welcome and Introductions

Last Monday was MLK day. Want to recognize our learnings from MLK.

Victor: At this point in time, we do not have a designated person to take minutes, so Nate has volunteered to do so. We discussed rotating minute-taking duties with Janet. What do people think?

S: Minute taking not fun so fair to share the burden of taking minutes.

Janet- need to capture what the vote (motion, vote breakdown). Consensus that we will rotate minute-taking responsibilities until we have secured a commissioner who can be designated to do so.

Public Open Comment

Schuyler Reid- Commissioner from Human Rights Commissioners. Visiting other commissions to connect and network. Was confirmed last month and had retreat last weekend. Focus is hammering out new structure with commissioners. Have several sub-teams focused on different topics but wanted to find ways to collaborate with other commissions to foster unity to address issues across the Seattle community.

Approve Minutes and Agenda

November minutes: no amendments for the November minutes. Brett abstained. Otherwise, **passed with unanimous consent**

No major amendments for January meeting agenda. **Passed with unanimous consent**

Update on Recruitment

Small sub-team has met to discuss outreach efforts. Wanting representation from BIPOC, Disability, and Senior communities. Diondra has decided to step down from the commission. Will plan to interview all applicants who applies. We have 5 applicants. Brett, Steven, and Victor will be doing interviews. Social media has being doing some outreach and will continue to do so.

Committee Reports

POC Committee- Diondra asked for time off so there was no meeting.

CommOps- Nothing

Community Outreach and Social Media- Brett sent out document that has communication content that commissioners can pass along to other orgs. If you have any orgs in mind, feel free to add to the list so we have a record.

Brett and Nate learned that we can't talk about local ballot and advocate bills that are local but we can talk about national issues!

2022 Commission Elections

Jessi will not be rerunning for co-chair for commission. Verbiage is that we have to elect up to three co-chairs.

It is custom for commission to vote on co-chairs in beginning of the year. Andrew is interim co-chair at this moment. Victor would be happy to continue in this role. Andrew would also not mind continuing as co-chair for the commission. Victor and Andrew are interested.

Lillian is not a commissioner because has not gone through confirmation. Steven is still eligible to vote as he is up for reappointed at end of the month.

Bylaws say that commissioners who are not confirmed but attend 3+ commission meetings can vote but we need to update the bylaws as this is incorrect. Andrew suggested that we should bring this up in February's meeting.

Janet mentioned this particular clause needs to be updated. A commissioner needs to be fully appointed by Council in order to vote.

Victor motioned to elect Andrew to continue as co-chair. Brett seconded. **Roll call vote. All said yes.**

Brett motioned to elect Victor to continue as co-chair. Andrew seconded. **Roll call vote. All said yes.**

Victor is looking forward to continuing to serve the commission and assist the community navigate the pandemic.

SOCR Report

Steven is being reappointed at the end of the month. Everyone agrees with the reappointed. Victor motioned to reappoint Steven. Andrew seconds. **Unanimous consent.**

5 chair meeting next month. Time for leadership representing each commission to connect, collaborate, align on upcoming events.

Note from Jessi- was able to connect with LifeLong and Utopia and purchase supplies for each organization. Unable to connect with Lavendar so unable to use the remaining 2021 budget.

Budget has been reset so now we now have \$2000!

Upcoming trainings this month through OCR. Kyana did some trainings and has some coming up. Will be sending out monthly digest that will have upcoming trainings listed.

Shout out to Jessi for managing the donation and taking the time to carry out the commission's motion to donate supplies to orgs.

Announcements, Reminders, & Roll Call

Brett- keep recruiting. Keep reaching out to organizations.

Steven- how do we decide what issues we advocate and push to city hall/city councils. How do we go from identifying issues to action?

Who is our liaison from City Hall/Mayors Office: Mayor's Office is Adiam Emery

Victor- each individual commissioner can identify issues on their own that they can bring to the commission.

Andrew- Deputy mayor is an activist in the LGBTQIA+ state level initiative and we should reach out to connect with the deputy mayor. We have some time to discuss what some of our priorities should be. We can write an introductory letter to City Hall/Mayor to break the ice.

Brett: Has there been any precedent for commissioners reaching out to Mayor's office during admin change. We should also reach out to city council as well. We can go to their office hours with materials.

Steven: not much LGBTQIA+ representation in leadership roles within city department. Only interacted with one LGBTQIA+ leader. Concerning that it seems like there is none. Is there an intent to make our leadership more diverse (greater LGBTQIA+ representation).

Janet will look into this and will circle back with the commission on Steven's concerns.

Janet- there will be a time for sharing workplans with city councils that normally happens during first quarter. Since admin change is happening, things are delayed. OCR transitions have started to occur. New director Derrick Wheeler and saying farewell to Mariko Lockhart. We're excited for Derrick to join!

Brett: my personal stances as they relate to the commission: Pro trans funding, pro affordable housing and other community crisis prevention, anti-police budget. Looking for ideas on how to have officials use and communicate with us.

Andrew: Agreed with Brett and Steven. Also concerned about the houseless community. Also concerned about safety for community. Especially considering policing and interactions between police and trans community.

Janet; this can be worked within sub-committee. This work does not need to be public facing. Quorum is 4 people so the group needs to be smaller than that.

Victor: any other thoughts?

Brett: can we work in small group within quorum and get feedback from other commissioners.

Janet- yes. It's when if we want public input, then we would want to make it public. Will invite liaison to next commission. It is custom that we notify City Hall and Council that we are recruiting. They will be invited but their attendance is not mandatory.

Brett- will coordinate group to work on workplan for the commission.

(END 7:50)