



**COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT COMMISSION (CIC)**

March 20, 2023

4:30 – 6:30 pm

Webex Meeting & Seattle City Hall L2-80

**Commissioners present:** Saba Rahman (she/her), Ahoua Koné (she/her), Martha Lucas (she/her), Fiona Murray (she/her), Marcus White, Bill Southern (he/him), Julia Jannon-Shields (she/her)

**Commissioners not in attendance:**

**City of Seattle Staff present:** Alvin Edwards (Seattle Department of Neighborhoods, he/him), Laura Jenkins (Seattle Department of Neighborhoods, she/her)

***(Transcriber’s Note: The notes shown below are summaries of statements provided. They are not transcriptions and have been shortened and edited to include the major points raised. Full comments are retained in the files in video recording and available upon request.)***

**Community Comments and vote on 2/27/23 Meeting Minutes**

There were no community comments.

The commission voted to approve the February 27, 2023 Community Involvement Commission minutes.

**Finish Facilitated Group Norms Conversation and vote on Group Values & Norms (with a 5-minute break)**

KJ Williams and AJ Williams with RISEWITHUS finished facilitating the conversation around group values and norms.

Facilitators recap on Group Values.

- At the previous meeting, the commissioners were able to add their group values and identify some commonalities.
- Facilitator AJ looked at all the input and created some categories. The facilitators are asking for CIC to streamline the values a little but not take too much time so that they can also complete the norms discussion.
- AJ wanted to draw attention to the Majority Rules process since there needed to be some clarity from the previous meeting.
  - Also “Fist of 5” method. Will this method be used?
  - Choosing how the decisions will be made will be central to the CIC making progress.
  - Group norms will be how we operationalize the work, so this is how the democratic process comes back into use.
- Facilitator KJ asked commissioners to add their names to one of the norms and add norms they would like to see or add.
  - Would like the commission to focus on things that you wish were in place already. Where you recognize there is a lack of structure or there has been struggle.
- Facilitator quick warm up exercise questions to foster more participation.



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- Each Commissioner added their 5 group norms to the Google doc and 5 group norms that they would like to implement going forward.
- AJ and KJ help commissioners to workshop the norms.
  - Want the commissioners to be very concise about the actions that they want the other commissioners to take and really think about what would have been helpful to you as a commissioner as you were onboarded.
  - Kindness and respect are a recurring theme from the commission. Identified as a “guiding value”.
  - Any norms that have not been addressed? Would like to think about this because anything left unresolved will arise again.
- Facilitators stop for 5 min Break. Return at 5:19pm.
- AJ and KJ wanted the group to do breakout sessions, but could not due to the public meetings act rules.
- AJ documenting:
  - What does service mean to you?
  - Selflessness?
  - Longsightedness?
  - Equity?
- Facilitators will gather all commissioners feedback, then work to consolidate the info. Then present it back to the Commission lead and full group can work to refine the document.
- Discussion about completing the norms assignment in CIC meeting vs homework.
  - Staff Liaison Alvin reiterated that the commission decided at the 2/27 meeting that they wanted to complete the Norms and values at 3/20 meeting.
  - KJ recommended that this be a democratic process and have commissioners decide.
  - Staff Liaison Laura mentioned that if this is homework, only less than a quorum of commissioners can assess the document (as to not trigger a rolling quorum).
    - AJ noted in the chat Commissioner Murray and Commissioner Jannon-Shields are okay with homework.
    - Commissioner Koné mentioned that we should complete as much as possible in the meeting. Not in favor of homework.
    - Facilitators decided to push ahead with discussion and complete in meeting.
  - Commissioner Southern joined the discussion.
  - KJ and AJ invited commissioners to enter in document definitions of what these characteristics and values mean to the CIC.
    - Commissioners all chime in to give their definitions of the group values.
      - See group norms Google doc for specific language and definitions.
- Staff Liaison Laura mentioned that we did consult the City Attorney to see if there were any recommendations around different decision-making models. They responded that they are not aware of any advice around this. Legally, they would default to whatever system is followable, and make sure that it is followed.
- KJ had a question about the Bylaws.



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- Since it's not explicitly stated, a new commissioner could come and challenge the democratic process.
  - Did the City Attorney mention that the Bylaws would need to be amended to reflect the change in process?
- Staff Liaison Laura responded that the City Attorney didn't mention that but we also didn't specifically ask about the Bylaws.
  - This is something that would need to be updated if the consensus model is used in certain instances.
  - If the CIC votes on Majority Rules, then that would need to be adopted into the Bylaws. So, this would be something that technically wouldn't come into effect until the Bylaws are amended.
  - Would need to be proposed at a future meeting in writing.
- Does the city council use democratic process?
  - Most of the group are unsure about the process. May use a democratic process of some sort.
  - Is the democratic process widely used by other orgs or governing bodies?
    - KJ asked for more context around Commissioner Southern's question.
- What happens if there is a tie? 4 and 4?
  - KJ – use the consensus model to move everyone through conversation and allow members to express their position and where they might be willing to move.
    - The Commission needs a quorum to make decisions.
- What about norms discussed?
  - AJ and KJ to wordsmith and give everyone a draft.
  - Since each commissioner wrote specific values, how will this be compiled?
    - Goal to put something together that is concrete and workable.
    - Each commissioner's 5 recommendations will be represented in what is received from AJ and KJ.
- What are the consequences for progression of negative behavior? Accountability?
  - AJ and KJ to provide conflict management processes.
  - Will be left to commission to decide how framework is initiated but it is progressive.
  - Will also provide this info with Group Norms and Values.
- What's next?
  - With the Open Public Meetings Act, Staff Liaisons will send it out when we receive it from AJ and KJ.
  - You won't be able to comment as a group, but keep your own notes to discuss in April.

#### Subcommittee Next Steps

- Group in favor of moving forward with subcommittees.
  - Want to add commissioners to Retaining Commissioners and recruitment.
    - Staff Liaison Alvin mentioned that they would assist Commissioner Southern with the subcommittee.



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- Bylaws state that Subcommittee minutes need to be taken and submitted with full meeting minutes.
- Staff Liaison Laura will check the Bylaws to see if there is any additional info needed for commissioners as they begin subcommittee meetings.
- No context in the Bylaws regarding recording the meetings.
- Subcommittee doc will be saved to SharePoint so that it can be referenced (no edit capability).
- Commissioners are in favor of starting subcommittees soon.
  - Time spent in subcommittees up to chair.
  - Chairs will work with commissioners on assignments and time spent on committees before the April 17<sup>th</sup> Community Involvement Commission meeting.
    - Most commissioners don't have a set idea of time dedicated to each subcommittee goal for each commissioner, only that the goal gets completed.

#### Staff Liaison Updates & Vote on Commission-selected appointment

Michael Seo's appointment as the City Council District 6 selected commissioner is scheduled for committee vote on Friday. A vote by the full council will happen in the next few weeks. Once approved, Mike will begin joining regular commission meetings.

Interactions with community:

- We advise that if any community members reach out to you and would like to share something with the commission, that you invite them to a commission meeting and not meet with them one on one.
- We also recommend that you are up front about what you can and can't do in your roles as commissioners to avoid miscommunications. You can refer to the bylaws and onboarding document, which are both saved on the SharePoint, for more specifics on commissioners' roles on the CIC.
- Commissioner Lucas asked if it would be possible to invite Detective Denise Bouldin (Cookie) to a future meeting. The commission has been wanting to invite her for many months in relation to community engagement. Staff Liaisons will check with the City Attorney's Office due to a current lawsuit and get back to the commission.

Commissioner Koné asked if there were any updates on following up with the person who provided public about projects in Magnolia at the last CIC meeting. Staff Liaison Laura gave the community member her card and this community member had not yet emailed Staff Liaison Laura. Commissioners encouraged follow up from the staff liaisons even if they don't have the community members' contact information.

Staff Liaisons will look into adding an email column to the public comment sign-in sheet for CIC meetings.

Staff Liaison Laura will try to find answers to the community members' questions and will follow up with the community interactions subcommittee.



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Staff Liaisons will email out remaining updates.

There was not time for the Commission to vote on the commission-selected appointment. Will postpone vote to the April meeting.

#### **Community Comments & Closing**

There were no community comments during this portion of the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned.