



COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT COMMISSION (CIC)

April 17, 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), Marcus White, Bill Southern (he/him), Julia Jannon-Shields (she/her)

Commissioners not in attendance: Michael Seo, Fiona Murray (she/her)

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 3/20/23 Meeting Minutes

There were no community comments.

The commission voted to approve the March 20, 2023 Community Involvement Commission minutes.

Finalize Group Norms Conversation and vote on Group Values & Norms, future use

The staff liaisons asked the commission if they had any changes or questions about content in the norms and values draft documents.

Commissioner Marcus White asked if they could also talk about the application of these documents and how they will be used in practice.

- Commissioner Martha Lucas suggested pulling up the documents the first few times they make decisions after it’s adopted so the group gets used to incorporating what is listed. They will use this practice until the norms and values become second-nature.
- Commissioner Ahoua Koné said the group could always pull the documents up when people have questions in the future.

Draft Norms Discussion

- None of the commissioners had questions or changes.
- Commissioner White reiterated the importance of respect in the norms.
- Staff Liaison Laura Jenkins asked what a line in the document that said “Utilize comparative advantage for group projects (i.e. resident in house)” meant. Commissioner White clarified that it meant that if you specialize in something, you should work to your strengths (subject matter experts).
- The commission approved the group norms document as is.



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Draft Values Discussion

- Commissioner Saba Rahman suggested a copy-editing change.
- Staff Liaison Alvin Edwards asked about the line that said “Strive for equal outcomes by addressing systemic oppression and counteracting its impact in our decision making and resource allocation” because he was unsure of the meaning.
 - The commission decided to update the language slightly and move this line to another section with Service & Selflessness instead of Majority Rules.
- Commissioner Lucas and Commissioner Ahoua Koné reiterated the importance of when the commissioner makes a decision or vote, that vote should stand until the broader commission would like to visit it.
 - This concept is addressed in the commission norms with the line: “Commit to decisions made and only revisit them if significant new information warrants it.”
- The commission approved the group values documents with some changes listed above.

Commissioner Rahman asked if the norms and values documents can be sent out with each monthly agenda to commissioners. Staff Liaison Jenkins said yes.

Staff Liaison Jenkins asked the commission what the process for amendments to the norms and values documents would be.

- Commissioners decided that any commissioner can propose an amendment and the entire commission would vote on adopting that amendment or not. Two-thirds of the commission would need to approve the amendment for it to be added.
- Commissioners will review these documents every year at the annual commission retreats.
- Commissioners voted to approve the process outlined above.

Subcommittee Updates

Subcommittee Chairs updated the group on subcommittee meetings since the last Community Involvement Commission meeting:

1. Subcommittee on Strengthening CIC relationships & visibility with City of Seattle stakeholders, which include City Council, Mayor & City departments.
 - a. Subcommittee Chair: Commissioner Marcus White
 - b. Subcommittee members: Commissioner Fiona Murray, Commissioner Ahoua Koné
 - c. Update from last meeting:
 - i. Members talked about how they can get more connected/involved with the Mayor and City Council. Some ideas include:
 1. Going to see the Mayor speak
 2. Creating flyer for community about the Community Involvement Commission and what they are doing, etc.
 3. Attending City Council meetings consistently
 4. Meeting one on one with City Councilmembers if a commissioner is in a City Council District-appointed position
 5. Going to see City Councilmembers speak



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6. Working with Department Directors (example Director Jenifer Chao of the Department of Neighborhoods)
2. Subcommittee on Strengthening CIC's relationships with the city of Seattle communities by building trust, being seen as a committed advocate acting in the community's best interest.
 - a. Subcommittee Chair: Commissioner Martha Lucas
 - b. Subcommittee members: Commissioner Saba Rahman, Commissioner Julia Jannon-Shields
 - c. Update from last meeting:
 - i. The group has not yet met. Commissioner Lucas will work to schedule a meeting before the May Community Involvement Commission meeting.
3. Subcommittee on Retaining Commissioners and recruitment.
 - a. Chair: Commissioner Bill Southern
 - b. Subcommittee members: None
 - c. No sub-committee members currently (will work with Laura and Alvin)
 - d. Update from last meeting:
 - i. Chair and Staff Liaisons spoke about ways to attract new members, ideas included:
 1. Possibly getting an ad or segment on the Seattle Channel
 2. Find out who is missing from the current roster of commissioners
 3. Possibly speak with City Council offices about longstanding vacancies in certain districts
 - ii. The three also spoke about current vacancies on the commission to level set and see what openings there are.
 - iii. With existing applications that have been submitted in the queue, Commission Southern would like to see if those folks can be appointed (or at least contacted) prior to additional recruitment. Another recruitment push may happen this spring/summer.

Staff Liaison Jenkins reminded the commissioners that according to the commission bylaws, subcommittee meetings need to be included with regular meeting minutes on the website. She asked that commissioners send staff liaisons their subcommittee meeting minutes.

Commissioner Bill Southern reached out to the newest commissioner Michael Seo to welcome him to the commission.

Vote on Commission-selected appointment
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Commissioners discussed the possibility of Commissioner White's reappointment to one of the commission-selected seats for a two-year term from June 2023 through May 2025.

- Commissioner Lucas mentioned that Commissioner White has brought a lot of energy to the commission. While she saw a change at the April meeting, she has a concern that Commissioner



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White doesn't see the difference between getting his points across and insisting that his points are right. She doesn't think this should impact him continuing to be a commissioner but wants to operate how the commission did during this April meeting. Commission Lucas is interested in a commitment from Commissioner White that his actions will match his words moving forward. She emphasized giving up a bit of the individual for the group as a whole.

- Commissioner White said that this is something he can commit to.
- Commissioner Southern said that the norms and values creation and use meant to help address some of those concerns. He recommended giving it a chance to work. He said this conversation seems redundant.
- Commissioner Lucas mentioned that through the norms and values creation process, they didn't come up with consequences for violating norms and values.
 - Commissioner Koné said she does not feel consequences are needed at this time but suggested that this can be revisited at any time as needed.
 - Commissioner Rahman mentioned the importance of accountability with the norms and values. She invited other commissioners to call her in if she is not meeting them. If down the line, the commission sees a need to build in more formal accountability measures, Commissioner Rahman would be open to that conversation.
- Commissioner Rahman echoed wanting everyone to commit to the agreements that the commission had come up with.
- Four commissioners voted to move Commissioner White forward to be appointed for another 2-year term on the commission. Commissioner White abstained.

Staff Liaison Updates

- June meeting
 - The commission will need to change date because it falls on the Juneteenth holiday. Does June 26th 4:30-6:30 work for the rescheduled meeting?
 - The June 26th date would work for Commissioners Rahman, Southern, and White. It does not work for Commissioner Lucas. Staff Liaisons will check with all of the commissioners to see if there are others who also would not be able to attend.
 - Commissioners Lucas and Rahman will not be available for the scheduled July meeting date.
 - The co-chairs expressed interest in holding the June CIC meeting at a location in a neighborhood. What neighborhood would you like to meet in for June meeting?
 - Ideas for possible neighborhoods: Central District – Douglass- Truth Library, Beacon Hill, Capitol Hill, and Rainier Beach.
 - Commissioners asked to keep parking availability and meeting space size in mind.
- Possible Spring/Summer guest update
 - At a commissioner's request, staff liaisons reached out to the City Attorney's Office about the question if Detective Cookie could join as a guest on a future meeting. There is not a policy or rule in place stating she would not be able to attend.
 - Staff liaisons asked if the commission could provide more specifics on what you would want to hear about from her if she is a guest at a future meeting.
 - Potential topics included:



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- Work she has done as an officer and how she interacted with community
 - How African American community views/interacts with SPD
 - What community engagement looks like that she's done
 - Strategies – what worked and what didn't
 - What she's heard from community over time
 - Challenges she has encountered
 - Commissioner White suggested that inviting Detective Cookie could also lead to a conversation with other Seattle Police Department entities like the Community Police Commission.
 - Staff Liaison Jenkins shared the running list of possible guests at future commission meetings which is saved on the commission's SharePoint site.
 - Commissioner Rahman asked what month Detective Cookie would be invited to a meeting.
 - Commissioner White said he thinks it would be a good idea to invite Councilmember Strauss to the May meeting since that will be the District 6 appointee Michael Seo's first meeting and to continue the relationship with Councilmember Strauss. They are interested in hearing him talk about priorities in the district. Other commissioners liked this idea.
 - If Councilmember Strauss is unavailable, other possible guests include:
 - Felicia Cross who staffs the Crime Prevention Council
 - Sophia Lopez with the Office of Emergency Management
 - Commissioner Rahman would like to hear more about challenges and gaps with their outreach work.
 - Staff Liaison Jenkins also mentioned the Seattle Emergency Communications Hub.
 - Jim Diers – former Director of the Seattle Department of Neighborhoods
 - Commissioners decided that Felicia Cross and Sophia Lopez would be back-up speakers to reach out to for the May meeting if Councilmember Strauss is unavailable.
 - Commissioner Lucas suggested inviting Detective Cookie to the June meeting. Other commissioners on the call agreed.
- New director settling in
 - The new Seattle Department of Neighborhoods Director Jenifer Chao started about a month ago. She is planning to go out to various community meetings and events over the next several months. She may come to a Community Involvement Commission meeting down the road.
 - Commissioner Rahman would be interested in having a copy of any notes on priorities from community organizations she visits.
 - Commissioner Southern asked for a copy of Director Chao's itinerary of meetings.
- Magnolia community questions
 - Staff Liaison Jenkins followed up on 3/29 with the community member who had provided public comment at a previous meeting with more information about lighting on the Magnolia Bridge and curb ramp work in the neighborhood. Staff Liaison Jenkins also updated the community relationships subcommittee.



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Community Comments & Closing

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

The meeting was adjourned.