



COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT COMMISSION (CIC)

August 21, 2023

4:30 – 6:30 pm

Webex Meeting & Seattle City Hall Room 370

Commissioners present: Saba Rahman (she/her), Martha Lucas (she/her), Bill Southern (he/him), Michael Seo, Fiona Murray (she/her), Ahoua Koné (she/her), Marcus White

Commissioners not in attendance: Julia Jannon-Shields (she/her)

City of Seattle Staff present: Alvin Edwards (Seattle Department of Neighborhoods, he/him), Laura Jenkins (Seattle Department of Neighborhoods, she/her), Director Jenifer Chao (Seattle Department of Neighborhoods, she/her), Aja Hazelhoff (Office of Planning & Community Development)

(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 6/26/23 Meeting Minutes & Commission-selected appointment

There were no community comments.

The commission voted to approve the June 26th 2023 Community Involvement Commission minutes.

The commission voted to move Fiona Murray forward as a candidate for the open Commission-selected appointment role. Staff Liaisons will follow up and work to get appointment paperwork processed.

Conversation with Seattle Department of Neighborhoods Director Jenifer Chao

This portion of the meeting focused on sharing information about Director Jenifer Chao's role, the Seattle Department of Neighborhoods' (DON) goals, and initiatives related to Generational Wealth and Community Wealth Building.

- Director Chao emphasized the importance of collaboration and ecosystem-building among various city departments and communities.
- The Department of Neighborhoods will collaborate with the Office of Economic Development (OED) to continue initiatives related to generational wealth and community wealth building.
- The co-facilitators from DON and OED will present a progress report and recommendations on the nine pilot projects to the City Council in the fall.

Discussion Highlights:

- Director Chao shared her background and history, including her experiences as a small business owner, work in the nonprofit sector, and involvement in City government.
- She highlighted the Seattle Department of Neighborhoods' commitment to building relationships with communities and promoting equity in decision-making.
- Commissioners asked questions about the potential impact of upcoming changes in the City Council and challenges in balancing diverse community needs.



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- The discussion revolved around the differences between Generational Wealth initiatives and Community Wealth Building, as well as the collaboration between DON and OED.
- Director Chao explained how the Department of Neighborhoods serves as a bridge between communities and the government and emphasized the importance of community partnerships.
- Director Chao asked the commission these questions:
 - I would love to hear from the CIC about how do we bring our neighborhoods together to bring shared solutions? So that we can thrive together, not in detriment where we could share identity in that way and commonality.
 - How can the Seattle Department of Neighborhoods (DON) support this work? How can DON really empower this group with limited funds and resources?
 - Suggestion for DON staff to attend meetings quarterly
 - What is the current landscape? What is your future vision to work with the City? Is it an advisory role? Does that what you want to maintain if there was if you could write your own executive order?

Staff Liaison Updates

Retreat Planning

- Discussion about scheduling a retreat for 2023:
 - A doodle poll will determine participants' availability.
 - Consideration of September or October for the retreat.
 - Agreement in October as a preferable month.
- Proposed retreat topics include:
 - a year-end review
 - exploring the DON relationship
 - assessing the current situation
 - discussing the future of the CIC
 - Open for more topic suggestions via email.
- Discussion about potential locations for the retreat.
- Budget constraints discussed, lack of a dedicated budget for the commission.
 - Mention exploring options for food budget and seeking support from local businesses.
 - Commissioner White offers personal contributions towards the food budget.
- Discussion about the value of the commission's work.

Recruitment & Appointments

- Discussion about recruitment and appointments for various offices.
 - Engagement with City Council Districts 1, 2, 3, and 7.
 - District 7 has a candidate in progress, pending paperwork completion.
- Get Engaged
 - Cade Weiger accepted the position to replace Commissioner Murray.
- Some appointments are awaiting council approval.



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- Commissioner Rahman announced her resignation next and willingness to assist with recruitment.

Presentation and Q&A on One Seattle Comprehensive Plan Outreach

- Aja Hazelhoff with the Office of Planning & Community Development spoke about the One Seattle Comprehensive Plan
 - The plan is a city-wide policy umbrella that guides most city departments and budgets.
 - Required by the city for the Growth Management Act, is called Seattle 2035. A draft plan will be released in the Fall and an update is due in 2024.
 - Planning for growth for the next 20 years in a more equitable, livable, and sustainable manner.
- They are looking for Department and public feedback. Aja will send a follow-up email with the Open House and Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) event dates.
- Staff Liaison Jenkins commented that if commissioners want to speak on behalf of the commission, then it would have to be brought before the commission, however, you could submit something separately as a community member.
- Aja also explained that a Community Involvement element has its own chapter in the plan.
 - Staff Liaison Jenkins commented that there would be a follow-up and possibly invite Aja back to a future meeting.

Subcommittee Updates

No subcommittee updates.

Possible Plan for Accountability

Co-chair White proposed an idea to track certain items like whether the group started the meeting on time, etc. to keep the commission more accountable. Commissioners seem interested in the ideas but would like more specifics before the process is finalized. The commission plans to discuss it at the September meeting.

Community Comments & Closing

Dolores Wiens had a question for the commission and asked if each District has one member. Staff Liaison Jenkins answered that there are spots for 16 commissioners total – seven appointed by City Council, seven by the Mayor’s Office (with one of those being the Get Engaged/youth position), and two selected by the commission.

Dolores Wiens highlighted how seniors and elders are not noticed and not included in many instances. Co-chair Southern said this is a topic the commission needs to discuss further. She asked how to apply to the commission and the staff liaisons followed up after the meeting.



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The meeting was adjourned.