



**COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT COMMISSION (CIC)**

September 18, 2023

4:30 – 6:30 pm

Webex Meeting & Seattle City Hall Room 370

**Commissioners present:** Martha Lucas (she/her), Bill Southern (he/him), Michael Seo, Marcus White, Julia Jannon-Shields (she/her)

**Commissioners not in attendance:** Ahoua Koné (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 8/21/23 Meeting Minutes**

The commission voted to approve the August 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023 Community Involvement Commission minutes.

**Retreat**

Upcoming retreat on Oct. 21st, touching on:

- Finding a keynote speaker.
- Possible retreat activities (personality test, visioning exercises, etc.).
- Opportunity for new members to get to know the team.
- Review of goals & mission

Staff Liaison Laura Jenkins mentioned new commissioners can attend as it is an open public meeting.

**Staff Liaison Updates**

Update by Laura Jenkins on the Office of Planning and Community Development's (OPCD) outreach plan related to the Seattle Comprehensive Plan.

- Aja Hazelhoff said their timeline had shifted, and they were awaiting more information before providing an update to the commission.
- Follow-up will be shared **with commissioners once more information is received from OPCD.**

**Generational Wealth Building**

- Staff Liaison Alvin Edwards provided an update from the generational wealth building discussion with Jennifer Chao, Director of the Seattle Department of Neighborhoods.
- He mentioned the generational wealth-building draft report and legislative intent.



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- Alvin shared that the Office of Economic Development (OED) and other departments were working together on this initiative. Also discussed was the interdepartmental team involved in generational wealth building.

#### Co-Chair Nomination & Vote Process

- Discussion of the process of nominating and voting for co-chairs, as well as co-chair responsibilities and meeting with the staff liaisons.

#### Additional Retreat Discussion

- Discussion of a year-end review and assessment during the retreat. This would possibly be comprised of a staff overview of accomplishments followed by a discussion with the commissioners.
- Co-Chair Marcus White and Commissioner Julia Jannon-Shields express a willingness to contribute to planning and facilitation roles.
- The commissioners voted in favor of recognizing the Oct. 21st retreat as a special meeting.
- The commission discussed the idea of meeting ahead of Oct 21st to plan for the retreat but left it open for further discussion later.

#### Subcommittee Updates

No subcommittee updates

#### Possible Plan for Accountability Follow-up and Vote

Topic will be postponed to a future meeting.

#### Get Out the Vote Proposal

Commissioners discussed the possibility of getting involved in voter registration and education efforts:

- Considered advising City departments such as the Democracy Voucher program and non-partisan community organizations to promote voter engagement while being cautious to not endorse any political candidates.
  - A discussion ensued regarding the commission's role in encouraging voter participation. Concerns were raised about potential conflicts with political endorsements.
  - Commissioner Mike Seo expressed hesitation regarding the commission's involvement in get-out-the-vote efforts, emphasizing the importance of non-partisanship.
  - Commissioner Martha Lucas recommended focusing on advising and collaborating with city departments on programs related to voter engagement and education. She suggested connecting with the Democracy Voucher program.
  - Staff Liaison Jenkins mentioned contacting the Office of Ethics and Elections and noted their advice to be cautious about appearing partisan. She also suggested reaching out to King County Elections for voter education tools.
- Co-Chair White asked for a consensus on the commission's priorities regarding voter engagement. It was agreed that advising City departments and programs with a non-partisan



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approach would be the focus.

#### Community Comments & Closing

- A community member, Moxie, suggested ending meetings with something positive, such as interesting facts or celebrations like National Cheeseburger Day.
- The commission voted in favor of no other regular commission meetings in October.

The meeting was adjourned.