

SYSTEMIC RACISM REVIEW COMMITTEE

April 1, 2021 12:00 PM

Zoom Webinar

MINUTES

I. ROLL CALL

Deputy Manager Mila Cosgrove convened the first meeting of the City and Borough of Juneau Systemic Racism Review Committee virtually via Zoom webinar, at 12:00p.m. on April 1, 2021.

Members Present: Kelli Patterson, Dominic Branson, David Russell-Jensen, Grace Lee, Gail Dabaluz, Lisa Worl

Members Absent: Carla Casulucan

Assemblymembers and Staff present: Mayor Beth Weldon, Assembly Liaison Christine Woll, Assemblymember Maria Gladyszewski, City Manager Rorie Watt, Deputy Manager Mila Cosgrove, City Attorney Robert Palmer, Deputy Clerk Diane Cathcart, Municipal Clerk Beth McEwen, Assistant City Attorneys Teresa Bowen and Sherri Layne

Mayor Weldon welcomed all the members of the committee and thanked them for participating in this process and their willingness to serve on this committee.

Mr. Watt echoed the Mayor's appreciation to the membership for their willingness to help with the community governance. He offered the assistance of the Manager's office as well as other CBJ staff that will be available to help the committee with its work.

Ms. Cosgrove noted that since this was the first meeting of the committee, the format was a little different than future meetings and while she is facilitating the beginning of this first meeting, once they elect a chair, the chairperson will take over and preside at the meetings. She invited committee members to introduce themselves and share some of their reasons for wanting to serve on this committee. Following each member's introduction, Assemblymember Woll, Ms. Cosgrove, and Mr. Palmer also introduced themselves and explained the roles they have with respect to this committee in particular.

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION by Ms. Dabaluz to approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Ms. Worl. *Hearing no objection, the agenda was adopted by unanimous consent.*

III. WORK SESSION-NO PUBLIC PARTICIPATION TAKEN DURING THIS MEETING

(Not to exceed a total of 10 minutes nor more than 2 minutes for any individual).

IV. AGENDA TOPICS

A. Board Matters

A. Charge of the Committee

City Attorney Palmer gave a presentation related to the charge of the committee as found in Ordinance 2020-32.

Mr. Palmer explained the tight timelines involved within the legislative process for ordinances and resolutions.

Ms. Worl asked for clarification that the work of the committee is to look at the legislation from a systemic racism lens and that the Law staff will be reviewing/ensuring the legislation has been reviewed for legal purposes. Mr. Palmer said that was correct and provided additional information about the overall process, timing, and changes that occur as a result of public testimony and/or Assembly amendments and the work that the Law Department does in response to those changes and how any changes resulting from the work of the SRRC will also be reviewed for legal standards.

Additional discussion took place regarding the workflow of legislation from Assembly to standing committees and back to the Assembly for final action.

Mr. Palmer then went on to explain the SRRC process, the Advisory Board Rules of Procedure, the SRRC Legislative Report due six days before the Assembly meeting, and that the Assembly may adopt legislation without the SRRC review, in case of a tight timeframe that didn't fit within the schedule. Generally, anything that missed initial review by the SRRC would likely still go to SRRC for review of that recently adopted legislation.

Mr. Palmer then went on to explain that the SRRC is only tasked with reviewing current legislation and not going back and reviewing previously adopted legislation. He then provided a more detailed overview of legislation flow through the Assembly, Assembly Standing Committees, and staff processes.

Ms. Worl asked about the flow of the legislation through the Assembly Standing Committees and then that same legislation coming to the SRRC for its work or if the SRRC will be working on the legislation at the same time as the ASC. Mr. Palmer suggested that the goal would be that the SRRC members may each want to be assigned to a particular ASC and then to bring that discussion/information back to the SRRC when it considers the legislation.

Ms. Lee asked about the scope of the SRRC and if they should be narrowly looking at just those issues related to systemic racism or if they also should be looking at other issues related to classism, intersectionality, or if racism issues were to be their only focus. Mr. Palmer answered that the technical answer is just systemic racism, however, he said that he recognizes and likely members of the Assembly recognize that racism can be expressed in different manners. To the extent the SRRC can draw a connection between social justice issues and systemic racism, they probably have a committee charge to look at that connection. If they don't, then it would not fall within the committee's scope.

Mr. Palmer explained the following steps as the main points they should consider in getting started:

- Pick a chair or other officers
- Pick a day/time to meet
- Consider assigning members to follow the work of Assembly Standing Committees
- Develop legislative systemic racism review criteria
- Draft a legislative report template
- Look at scheduling a date for a joint of the Assembly/SRRC
- Start review of June 14 legislation in preparation of the July 12 Assembly meeting.

B. Election of Officers

Ms. Cosgrove called for nominations for Chair.

Ms. David Russell-Jensen nominated Lisa Worl to serve as Chair. Ms. Worl said that she was willing to serve and she looks forward to having a Deputy Chair.

Ms. Cosgrove passed the gavel to Ms. Worl to conduct the remainder of the meeting.

Ms. Worl thanked everyone and called for nominations or names of anyone interested in serving as Deputy Chair. Dominic Branson nominated Kelli Patterson if she was willing to serve as Deputy Chair. Ms. Patterson declined the nomination.

Ms. Patterson nominated Grace Lee to serve as Deputy Chair if she was willing. Ms. Lee accepted the nomination.

Ms. Worl asked, as Chair, if she could also make a nomination or not. Mr. Palmer provided some clarity on parliamentary procedure and Ms. Worl asked Mr. Russell-Jensen if he would be interested in being nominated to serve as Deputy Chair. Mr. Russell-Jensen said he would defer to Ms. Lee.

Ms. Worl asked for a roll call vote on the Deputy Chair position.

Those members in favor of Ms. Grace Lee serving as the Deputy Chair: Ms. Patterson, Ms. Dabaluz, Mr. Branson, Mr. Russell-Jensen, Ms. Worl, and Ms. Lee

Ms. Lee was elected as Deputy Chair by a unanimous vote of all members present.

C. Review of Open Meetings Act

This item was deferred to a later meeting when they have more time available.

D. Review of Legislation Flow & Municipal Calendar

Mr. Palmer provided additional information about the legislation workflow and the committee reviewed and discussed the calendar and Assembly agenda preparation calendar as found in the SRRC meeting packet.

E. SRRC Meeting Schedule

Committee members discussed scheduling of meetings. Mr. Branson shared that a lunch time slot may not be adequate to cover all the work they need to accomplish. Ms. Dabaluz said that she would prefer the noon time meetings due to other commitments in the evening.

Ms. Lee asked if they decide a meeting schedule today if that will be set in stone or if that can be adjusted.

Ms. Cathcart provided information about the anticipated workload of the committee as well as the timing options available due based on Zoom and staffing availability as well as the coordination they may want to consider based on Assembly meeting dates. Ms. Cosgrove also suggested that, ideally, they may want to try to schedule their meetings for the Tuesdays following the Assembly meetings as that might provide them the most time to work on legislation.

Ms. Worl asked Ms. Cosgrove about the nature of the work to be done by the SRRC prior to beginning to review legislation in June/July. Ms. Cosgrove explained that the SRRC will want to establish the criteria for the systemic racism review, develop a legislative report template, and possibly practice on the legislation that will be coming before the Assembly between April and June.

Ms. Worl said that she heard a suggestion for Tuesdays at Noon. She suggested the committee hold meetings the 2nd Tuesday at Noon.

Mr. Russell-Jensen asked about also scheduling additional meetings rather than just one meeting per month. He suggested adding a second meeting for the 4th Tuesday of the month in addition to meeting on the second Tuesday of the month.

Additional discussion took place with that schedule for April in that the two meetings would be held on April 13 and 27. Mr. Branson said he was not available to meet at noon on April 27 but would be available if the committee chose to meet that evening. Ms. Worl noted that one of the members of the committee wasn't present at this meeting and that they need at minimum 5 members of the committee for a quorum and she asked if others would be available to meet at noon on April 27.

After polling the members, they scheduled the next two meetings for April 13 and 27 and will likely look at holding regular meetings the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month at noon with the caveat that they will decide at the April 27 meeting if that will be the schedule moving forward.

V. STAFF REPORTS

None.

VI. COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS

Ms. Worl thanked everyone for attending and asked Ms. Cathcart about the Clerk staff sending Zoom scheduling/logistical emails. Ms. Cathcart said that the committee will continue

to receive emails from the Clerk's office with all the meeting logistic information.

Mr. Russell-Jensen asked if they could get a copy of Mr. Palmer's presentation, they may be able to review that as homework and come back to the next meeting with an idea of what Assembly Standing Committees they may want to follow.

Topics for consideration at the next two upcoming SRRC agendas:

- Open Meetings Act
- Assembly Committee Assignments
- Legislative Criteria Review
- Look at some practice ordinances together
- Draft Legislative Report template

VII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Ms. Dabaluz to adjourn the meeting. *Hearing no objection, the meeting was adjourned at 1:11p.m.*