



SYSTEMIC RACISM REVIEW COMMITTEE WORKSESSION MINUTES

September 06, 2022 at 12:00 PM

Zoom Webinar

<https://juneau.zoom.us/j/92303909454> or 1-253-215-8782 Webinar ID: 923 0390 9454

A. CALL TO ORDER

Acting Chair Lee called the Systemic Racism Review Committee to order at 12:08p.m.

B. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We acknowledge that the City and Borough of Juneau is on Tlingit land, and wished to honor the people of this land, the Auk Kwaan and Taku Kwaan. For more than ten thousand years, Alaska Native people have been and continue to be integral to the well-being of our community. We are grateful to be in this place, a part of this community, and to honor the culture, traditions, and resilience of the Tlingit people.
Gunalchéesh!

B. ROLL CALL

Present: Acting Chair Grace Lee, Ephraim Froehlich, Gail Cheney and Ivan Nance

Absent: Kelli Patterson

Staff/Other: Robert Barr, Adam Gottschalk, Di Cathcart, Aquatics Board Chair Will Muldoon, Parks & Recreation Director George Schaaf

Others in attendee mode: Sherri Layne

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Agenda approved as presented.

E. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. August 30, 2022 SRRC Minutes

Minutes approved as presented.

F. AGENDA TOPICS

2. Discussion on: Ordinance 2022-22 An Ordinance Amending the City and Borough of Juneau Code Related to the Aquatic Board of Directors.

Over the last two years, the Aquatics Board has had vacancies, which contributed to meetings being cancelled for lack of quorum. The Aquatics Board recommended changes to its membership requirements, so it can continue to provide effective oversight of the pool facilities. The Assembly Human Resources Committee reviewed this topic on August 1, 2022 and recommended the Assembly reduce the membership from nine to seven and allow up to three members to be from a local aquatic organization. Assemblymember Triem has also proposed an amendment to remove the current code requirement that inserts the Aquatics Board into the hiring process for the Aquatics Manager.

Robert Barr introduced George Schaaf (P&R Director) and Will Muldoon (Aquatics Board Chair) and highlighted the ethnicity and gender reports included in the packet that Granicus provides as part of the board management program. Mr. Schaaf gave an overview of the five Parks and Recreation board's currently in existence and noted the department is hoping to work on a consolidation of the five boards

into a manageable structure for both volunteer board members, board member recruitment and staff time.

Mr. Froehlich noted that part of the action that was under review in this ordinance was decreasing the number of seats from nine to seven and asked how does that protect for diversity vs. limiting it by decreasing board size. Mr. Schaaf responded that he didn't know if more seats would yield more diversity given the limited capacity of volunteers for our community size and thought one committee could provide better diversity than the current the structure.

Mr. Nance wondered if a special interest gets implanted in these boards would the special interest consider what is in the best interest of the whole community. He stated it seemed the less specialized a group the more likely to get a better mix of people with the interest in the community as a whole. Mr. Nance said he liked the idea of cutting back on the number of boards and instead look at a larger committee since recruiting is a huge deal and marketing is key.

Ms. Cheney liked the idea of a smaller, stable board and focusing on the diversity piece and better utilization of technology for people to be able to meet.

Chair Lee noted that looking at the ordinance, the Aquatics Board started as a seven member board and then became a nine member board and asked why that happened. Mr. Muldoon responded that originally there were two non-voting members when it was a seven member board and increased that to nine members with the two non-voting seats becoming voting seats. As we've had members term out we've ended up where we are now with two vacancies. He added that the not meeting quorum is the current main issue.

Ms. Cheney asked when staff was expecting to review and make possible changes to board structure. Mr. Muldoon said there have been vacancy issue through the pandemic which has made it hard to meet quorum. The ordinance has gone through some rewrites and the hope is to have this legislation move forward within the next month, as well as the larger discussion regarding board consolidation.

Mr. Barr noted that specific changes to the Aquatics Board will happen at the next Assembly meeting. The larger discussion around board consolidation will go to the Assembly Human Resources Committee sometime this fall. All those changes would come back before the SRRC.

Mr. Barr, one of the things the Assembly is looking for is recommendations of how the SRRC should evolve, a work session for the committee to discuss how the SRRC should or could evolve and the charge of the committee; as Chair Lee stated, the tool was created by the committee and can be used as the committee likes.

Committee members began to discuss the role of the SRRC in reviewing legislation and using the toolkit the committee created and the possibility of expanding the role of the committee – how to get more diversity on CBJ boards/committees. Discussion was had on what is currently within the ability of the committee and how best to get information from the SRRC to the Assembly – through motion, through the SRRC Assembly Liaison or through a summary included in the Manager's Report of what action the SRRC recommends regarding specific legislation.

MOTION: by Mr. Froehlich that the SRRC makes a recommendation to the Assembly that the current action pertaining to the aquatics board is not flagged by this committee but has raised larger issues which the SRRC believe merit review by the City and potentially the Systemic Racism Review Committee as well. ***Hearing no objection, motion passed.***

G. STAFF REPORTS

3. CBJ Board/Committee demographic charts on ethnicity and gender. Since those two questions on the board application are optional these charts only reflect applicants or board members who answered the two questions.

H. COMMITTEE MEMBER / LIAISON COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS

I. NEXT MEETING DATE

Tuesday, September 13, 2022 at Noon via Zoom Webinar

J. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the committee, meeting adjourned at 1:09 p.m.