



Commission on African American Affairs Public Meeting Friday, May 14, 2021 | 3:00 pm - 5:00 p.m. via Zoom

Commission Chair Will Hausa
Representing Pierce County

Commission Vice-Chair Sara Franklin
Representing South King County

Commissioner De'Sean Quinn
Representing South King County

Commissioner Chaune Fitzgerald
Representing Tri-Cities

Commissioner Dorian Waller
Representing Pierce County

Commissioner Andrea Caupain
Representing King County

Commissioner Rev. Walter Kendricks
Representing Eastern Washington

Executive Director Edward O. Prince

Members present: Vice-Chair Franklin-Phillips, Fitzgerald, Kendricks, Quinn, Waller, Executive Director Edward Prince, Executive Assistant Charlotte Kerney

Absent: Chair Hausa, Commissioner Caupain

3:00 pm – Meeting Called to order by Vice-chair Franklin-Phillips

3:05 pm – **Motion to approve previous meeting minutes by Commissioner Kendricks**

Seconded by Commissioner Fitzgerald

Point of order by Commissioner Kendricks

Vice-chair called for vote

Voice vote – no objections. Motion carried. March 2021 commission meeting minutes approved

3:10 pm – **Dr. Shah, Secretary, Washington State Department of Health & Elizabeth Perez, Communications Director**

- Notes the lifting of mask requirements, reopening remarks by Governor Inslee of the state and 57% of vaccine immunization of Washingtonians.
- Vaccine confidence/hesitancy phases. DOH needs help of all the commissions to support vaccine information distribution. A softening in vaccine demand is now occurring. Vaccine patterns are occurring across the state and there are many reasons for these issues that are actually systemic issues of trust in the government and access. The [DOH Dashboard](#) has vaccination data.
- Seeks a long-term continuation of collaboration to improve the health of Washingtonians. Committed to equity and opportunities to health for all communities. DOH stands as a partner and resource.

3:25pm – **Washington State Recreation & Conservation Office**

Ben Donatelle, Katie Pruitt, Planning and Policy Specialist, Director Megan Duffy

- Director Duffy is the new lead of the Washington State Recreation and Conservation office. It is a small agency created by citizen initiative back in the 60's offering grant opportunities/management to various outdoor activities such as farmland, salmon recovery. They are the largest funder of parks, trails and athletic fields.
- 2021 budget proviso; equity review and collaborating with CAAA and CAPAA, CHA, GOIA and several others in consultation for the review. The report is due June 30, 2022.
- Forming a task force to provide equitable access and increasing physical activity for school-aged children.
- Looking to assess what communities need and want
 - **Suggestions by Commissioner Quinn:** King County composed an [Open Space Equity Report](#) that examined underutilized and under resourced parks in urban areas. Commissioner Quinn relates a previous effort where CBOs were brought together to be a voice because

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communities of color may not be as accessible for a survey. Suggests using this method in response to the proviso.

- Relating to conservation; there are existing programs or opportunity for coordination with schools and you would see an overlay of free and reduced lunch and poor health outcomes. If you connect with school programs that conduct field trips to these spaces there may be a greater likelihood of future awareness, a legacy of exposure and intentional engagement around the value of parks and conservation.
- Try to build off work that has already been done to center equity, thus the small amount of money can be maximized. The Wildlife Foundation has partnered with communities of color previously. Priorities vary among jurisdictions so there may be some capacity building opportunities to create a community around the use and stewardship of parks and trails.

3:25 pm –Lisa Smith, Washington State Microenterprise Association

Provides funding to non-profits to assist the smallest businesses (microbusinesses) that are generally marginalized in Washington state. WSMA builds support and capacity for non-profits to grow an inclusive economy. WSMA has been around since 2004. By reaching BIPOC orgs, a second round of funding was made available to WSMA for distribution in April 2021. Grants are usually funded each fall and information is distributed via the WSMA newsletter and social media. Looking into possibly emulating their current process to provide contracting supports. Currently, the Washington Procurement Technical Assistance Center provides assistance to firms seeking contracts.

4:40 pm – Public Comment

One individual in the audience. No public comment

4:45 pm - Vice-chair worked on a Alzheimer's Call to Action publication and asks for the Commission to share it among the community.