



**City of Seattle
Seattle Renters' Commission**

SEATTLE RENTERS' COMMISSION (SRC) MEETING MINUTES

November 5, 2025

6:30 - 8:00pm

Webex Meeting and Seattle City Hall Room 370

Purpose: The Seattle Renters' Commission (SRC) was established to represent the interest of renters located in Seattle, to advise and make recommendations to the Mayor and City Council on public policy matters of importance to renters citywide.

Commissioners in attendance: Kate Rubin, Kasey Burton, Allan Francis, Adora Blue, Liz Fite, Sally Kinney, Sam Wolfson, Karen Taylor, Andrew Ashiofu, Julissa Sanchez, Daniel Lugo

Commissioners not in attendance: Agni Bhattacharya, Lydia Felty, Angela O'Brien

City Staff in attendance: Laura Jenkins from Seattle Department of Neighborhoods

Quorum: Yes

Public Comment: No

Transcriber's note: These minutes provide a summary of key points discussed. A full recording is available upon request.

Welcome

Meeting opened at 6:30pm with a land and labor acknowledgment.

Approval of the Agenda (11/5); Approval of the Minutes (10/3)

Agenda approved. 10/3 minutes approved.

Public Comment

No public comment.

Debrief Meeting with Councilmember Juarez

Kasey Burton provided an overview of the meeting a few commissioners had with Councilmember Juarez on 10/14 and follow-up after that meeting.

City Budget

- Conversation and possible vote on commissioner speaking at public meetings about the budget:
 - The commission voted and approved that any member of the Renters' Commission can speak in public comment or with Councilmembers on behalf of the Renters' Commission about funding the three items approved by the commission (listed below) related to the 2026 proposed City budget.
 - Approved with two abstentions

- Conversation and possible vote on explicitly endorsing amendments. After discussion, the commission voted to support the amendments below.
 - The commission supports adding an additional \$500,000 for tenant services beyond what was included in the balancing package.
 - Approved with three abstentions
 - The commission supports the \$4 million proposed for rental assistance for renters in affordable housing.
 - Approved
 - The commission supports the \$50,000 funding for the Renters' Commission listed in the balancing package.
 - Approved
 - There was confusion from commissioners about this amendment proposal as to what exactly the money can be used on.

Retreat follow-up and next steps

Interim co-chair Kate Rubin talked through a few proposed committees based on the conversations at the November 2 Renters' Commission retreat. Proposed committees include:

- Executive Committee
 - Responsible for planning agendas, debriefing meetings & ensuring follow-up, liaison questions/outreach, timely responses to issues
 - Shared leadership model
- Operations
 - Responsible for project management, onboarding, work planning
- Partnerships
 - Responsible for building & maintaining relationships with key partners
- DEI Committee
 - Responsible for developing a decision matrix that all committees will use to ensure work is equity-centered
- Art & Communications
 - Responsible for any public-facing materials, including social media, event marketing, letters, etc.
- Ideas for future committees
 - Policy (long-term - researching our own policies)
 - Evaluating effectiveness of protections

It's proposed that committee membership would be for at least one year. All commission members are required to serve on a committee.

Commissioners discussed these potential committees. Commissioners brought up accessibility needs, sustainability, and ad-hoc workgroups. The commission did not make a vote to finalize committees at this meeting.

The commission also discussed next steps in relation to two workgroups established at the retreat:

- Appointments to the Seattle Social Housing Developer Board Workgroup
 - A special meeting is schedule
- Seattle Renters' Commission Bylaws Updates Workgroup

The commission voted in favor of extending its monthly meeting time from 6:30-8pm to 6-8pm moving forward to allow more time for discussion. One commissioner opposed this change.

Discussion and possible vote related to proposed tenant fees and return of deposit legislation

After discussion, the commission voted and approved supporting the proposed legislation related to returning holding deposits. They also voted and approved confirming that while they do not oppose the other two pieces of proposed tenant fees legislation, they agree this legislation doesn't go far enough to address junk fees more holistically. They would encourage going further and banning all junk fees. 10 in favor, 1 opposed.

The co-chair decided not to write a letter or put out a statement about this vote at this time. But this vote does allow the co-chairs to speak about the commission's stance on this topic if needed.

The commission is interested in continued conversations with the Mayor's Office about future proposed legislation related to this topic.

Unfinished/New Business

- Recent emails from community and email process
 - Staff liaison provided an overview of her process when community members send emails to the Renters' Commission email account. Commissioners discussed a way to better track emails from community based on certain issues and the process for responding. The commission would like to discuss this further in the future.
- Renters' Commission Budget update and possible vote
 - The commission voted and approved spending remaining budget (\$3,500 of \$5,000 was spent on the 11/2 retreat) on a Seattle Renters' Commission tablecloth for event tabling. The rest of the funds can be used for printing translated Renting in Seattle booklets as previously voted on.
- Workgroup updates
- Councilmember Solomon invited commissioners to his farewell event. Staff liaison will send out details.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned.

Decisions and Votes made during this meeting:

1. What the Renters' Commission voted to approve related to the proposed 2026 budget

- The commission supports adding an additional \$500,000 for tenant services beyond what was included in the balancing package.
- The commission supports the \$4 million proposed for rental assistance for renters in affordable housing.
- The commission supports the \$50,000 funding for the Renters' Commission listed in the balancing package.

- Any member of the Renters' Commission can speak in public comment or with Councilmembers on behalf of the Renters' Commission about funding the three items approved by the commission (listed above) related to the 2026 proposed City budget.

2. Seattle Renters' Commission Monthly Meeting Time

- The commission voted in favor of extending its monthly meeting time from 6:30-8pm to 6-8pm moving forward to allow more time for discussion.

3. Tenant Fees Legislation

- The commission voted and approved supporting the proposed legislation related to returning holding deposits. They also voted and approved confirming that while they do not oppose the other two pieces of proposed tenant fees legislation, they agree this legislation doesn't go far enough to address junk fees more holistically. They would encourage going further and banning all junk fees.

4. Remaining 2025 Commission Funds

- The commission voted and approved spending remaining budget (\$3,500 of \$5,000 was spent on the 11/2 retreat) on a Seattle Renters' Commission tablecloth for event tabling. The rest of the funds can be used for printing translated Renting in Seattle booklets as previously voted on.