

SEATTLE RENTERS' COMMISSION (SRC) MEETING MINUTES

June 3, 2025

6:30-8:00 PM

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, Lydia Felty, Julissa Sanchez

Commissioners not in attendance: Atif Osami, Dan Godfrey

People with pending appointments in attendance: Julia Payne, Daniel Lugo

Staff: Laura Jenkins

Quorum: Yes

Public Comment: Yes

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

Welcome & Land and Labor Acknowledgement

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

Approval of Agenda and Previous Meeting Minutes

Minutes for March 5, March 10, March 20, April 2, and May 7, 2025, were reviewed and unanimously approved.

Public Comment

A representative from Washington Community Action Network (WASHINTONcan) addressed the vacancy on the Seattle Social Housing Developer Board requesting postponement of the appointment vote to allow for:

- Skill gap analysis
- Additional community outreach
- Structured selection process

They stressed importance of ensuring board effectiveness and inclusivity.

Fort Lawton Redevelopment Plan and Possible Vote on Related Statement

Jessica Gomez, Office of Housing, and Andy Sheffer, Seattle Parks and Recreation presented the latest information about the Fort Lawton Redevelopment Plan.

Key Details:

- Housing Plan (500 Units Total):
 - 100 units: Permanent supportive housing by Chief Seattle Club
 - 200 units: Affordable rentals by Catholic Housing Services and United Indians of All Tribes
 - 200 units: Affordable homeownership by Habitat for Humanity
 - Units target 0-80% AMI, with a focus on family-sized housing
- Parks Development (22 Acres):

- Integration with Discovery Park
- Emphasis on natural areas, passive recreation, and reduced impervious surfaces

The commission voted in favor of supporting the plan and exploring writing a letter/public comment in support pending commission capacity.

As follow-up, staff liaison will share presentation slides pending Mayoral approval.

Renters' Listening Session Report – Finalize Report and Next Steps

Final report from May listening session reviewed. Covered topics include living conditions, affordability, tenant protections. The commission acknowledged barriers to attendance but affirmed representative findings.

The commission voted to approve finalizing the draft report for publication and distribution. The staff liaison will post on the Seattle Renters' Commission website, send to Seattle City Council, and share with the partner commissions, attendees, and the SRC email list.

Commissioners recognized Julia Payne for her leadership role in this effort. They also recognized the partner host commissions – Seattle LGBTQ Commission and Seattle Women's Commission.

Social Housing Developer Board Vacancy and Possible Vote on Appointment

Due to limited commissioner capacity, concerns about transparency and community input, and unknowns about gaps in board skills and support, the commission voted to postpone an appointment to the Seattle Social Housing Developer Board for the vacant seat appointed by the commission.

Commissioners Rubin and Felty will consult current renter board members and CEO to identify skills needs and representation gaps.

Multilingual and accessible engagement emphasized.

Unfinished and New Business

- Representatives for Quarterly Meetings with Social Housing Developer Board
 - Deferred until appointment issues are resolved.
 - Executive Board Appointments Update
 - Status pending due to leadership turnover.
- Pending Commission Appointments
 - Council Transition: Council Member Moore resigning July 7, 2025
 - Appointment delays expected due to City Council recess and budget season.
 - Recruitment
 - Staff liaison will prepare updated materials.
 - Commissioner Rubin expressed interest in reappointment.
 - Get Engaged Update
 - Two applicants identified. Interviews will occur in June.
 - Commissioners may participate.
- 2025–2026 Work Plan
 - Current plan ends June 30, 2025.
 - New plan development to be addressed at next meeting.
 - Staff liaison will check to see the status of the SRC budget.

- Ethics Legislation Follow-up
 - Council Member Moore withdrew the bill.
 - Topic may re-emerge; future discussion pending.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM

Decisions and Votes made during this meeting:

1. The commission voted in favor of supporting the Fort Lawton Redevelopment plan and exploring writing a letter/public comment in support pending commission capacity.
2. The commission voted to approve finalizing the draft Renters' Listening Session Report for publication and distribution.
3. The commission voted to postpone an appointment to the Seattle Social Housing Developer Board for the vacant seat to be appointed by the commission.