

SEATTLE RENTERS' COMMISSION (SRC) MEETING MINUTES

July 2, 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, Dan Godfrey

Commissioners not in attendance: Atif Osami

People with pending appointments in attendance: Daniel Lugo, E.Mandisa Subira

Staff: Laura Jenkins from Seattle Department of Neighborhoods, Seattle City Councilmember Mark Solomon, Sarah Mayes and Christine Hendrickson from Councilmember Solomon's Office

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

The July 2 SRC meeting agenda and minutes for June 3 meeting were reviewed and approved.

Public Comment

Councilmember Mark Solomon joined the meeting and spoke about how he wants to keep people housed and he wants low-income housing providers to keep being able to provide affordable housing. He wants to hear from renters about their experiences and find a solution together.

Councilmember Solomon also brought up his desire to fully sit the Renters' Commission and hear potential appointments when he is acting chair at the July 23rd Housing and Human Services Committee. His office outlined dates for paperwork to be able to move appointments forward. They requested recommendations from the commission for Council appointments. He emphasized his desire to move appointments forward prior to budget season (late September to late November) in an effort to have a group of folks to advise on solutions. Councilmember Solomon also mentioned the possibility of introducing legislation related to safety and stability in housing.

Commissioners and staff liaison Laura Jenkins confirmed which people on the meeting are interested in being reappointed/appointed.

Commissioners shared their appreciation that Councilmember Solomon joined the meeting. They had questions about delays in appointments up to this point (most appointments did not move forward for over 18 months). Commissioners were also curious about what future partnership could look like. Councilmember Solomon brought up the idea for a future forum.

Councilmember Solomon asked about the commission's priority areas. The commission decided to send these pre-existing published statements and documents to the Councilmember to respond to this question:

- [Seattle Renters' Commission 2024-2025 Work Plan](#)
- [April 2025 Renters Listening Session Report](#)
- [Seattle Renters' Commission Letter regarding the 2025-2026 Budget Proposal](#)
- [Seattle Renters' Commission Letter in Support of Updating Seattle's Comprehensive Plan to Protect Renters \(2024\)](#)

One commissioner highlighted the recent tenant services cuts and said she would love to see a push for more funding and expanded services in a culturally relevant way for diverse tenants in Seattle.

Related to public safety, people with pending appointments in attendance brought up the CARE team and an ask for better communication/notification from property management when safety issues arise in and around apartment buildings.

Social Housing Developer Board Vacancy

There is currently one vacancy on the Seattle Social Housing Developer Board. SRC Interim Co-Chairs met with the CEO of the developer to hear more about skills they are envisioning future board members will have. Those include: financial management, legal or regulation skills, strategic planning, community work, governance, leadership, communications, risk management, project management, conflict management, real estate experience, and trauma-informed.

The Interim Co-Chairs also met with current SRC-appointed members of the board to hear from them on what they would like to see. While there wasn't full alignment among the group, things that really stood out were they wanted experience working with governmental, quasi-governmental orgs, or previous board experience. They are looking for someone who is "resilient in times of storm."

The Board members also requested a more consistent relationship and line of communication with the Renters' Commission.

There have been conversations about asking renters themselves and the community members to be part of the interview panel to fill vacancies on the board. So, while the SRC will solely make the decision as to who's appointed, the commission could hear from more voices.

For next steps, the commission decided to:

- Create a list of organizations/community members to send the vacancy application announcement to (including tenants of affordable housing providers).
- Interim Co-Chairs and Daniel Lugo will connect to plan out next steps.
 - They may start reaching out to renters in community to see if there is interest in being on an interview panel (with the understanding that no final invites to the panel would be made without approval from the commission).

Recruitment

On the Renters' Commission, besides the vacancies that will be filled by previously serving commissioners, there are four Council appointed vacancies and two commission-selected vacancies.

With the tight timeline to move forward paperwork for recommended appointments to the SRC, the commission voted and approved giving the Interim Co-Chairs authority to make recommendations for appointments to the SRC this round with the caveat that any current SRC members could email them with recommendations.

The Co-chairs and the Mayor's Office signed a [letter](#) in recognition of Julia Payne's service to the commission. Due to the Housing and Human Services Committee not moving forward any appointments, she was never officially appointed to the commission, but she still volunteered with the group for 18 months.

Seattle Renters' Commission Budget Spending and Potential Vote

The Interim Co-Chairs had discussed the possibility of a candidate forum. With competing priorities at the meeting, the commission did not get a chance to discuss or vote on spending their budget. The SRC would like to spend the money before the end of the year. They would like to discuss further specifics and vote on how to spend at a future meeting.

Work Plan and Possible Vote

The commission tabled this topic and voted to discuss it at a future meeting.

Unfinished and New Business

- Renting in Seattle Handbook Distribution Update
 - The commission voted last year to pay for printed Renting in Seattle guides in several languages.
 - Guides distributed to community organizations and renters so far:
 - Traditional Chinese: 47 (all)
 - Vietnamese: 47 (all)
 - Somali: 34 (13 remaining)
 - Amharic: 32 (15 remaining)
 - Spanish: 33 (14 remaining)
- Recent Community Involvement Commission Meeting Presentation
 - The Community Involvement Commission asked the Seattle Renters' Commission to present at recent meeting. Due to commission capacity, staff liaison Laura Jenkins presented about the commission and their recent work. Community Involvement Commission members were interested in sharing out about any future recruitment opportunities for the SRC.
- Mayor Harrell and Councilmember Rinck announced a proposal to reduce taxes for small businesses and raise new revenue. Interim Co-Chair Rubin proposed a vote to make a statement in favor of the proposal with the caveat that it is still not enough. Commissioners feel they need more time to look over the proposal before voting to make a statement.
 - The SRC will schedule a special meeting to discuss more and possibly vote.
- The commission voted and approved allowing the Interim Co-Chairs to write a letter and/or testify on behalf of the commission against renter protection repeals.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned.

Decisions and Votes made during this meeting:

1. Next steps to Fill Seattle Social Housing Developer Board vacancy:

- Create a list of organizations/community members to send the vacancy application announcement to (including tenants of affordable housing providers).
 - Interim Co-Chairs and Daniel Lugo will connect to plan out next steps.
 - They may start reaching out to renters in community to see if there is interest in being on an interview panel (with the understanding that no final invites to the panel would be made without approval from the commission).
2. The commission voted and approved giving the Interim Co-Chairs authority to make recommendations for appointments to the SRC this round with the caveat that any current SRC members could email them with recommendations.
 3. The commission voted and approved allowing the Interim Co-Chairs to write a letter and/or testify on behalf of the commission against renter protection repeals.