



**City of Seattle**  
**Seattle Renters' Commission**

**SEATTLE RENTERS' COMMISSION (SRC) MEETING MINUTES**

May 6, 2026

6:00 - 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, Sam Wolfson, Lydia Felty, Andrew Ashiofu, Liz Fite, Daniel Lugo, Karen Taylor, Sasha Wasserstrom, Elisabeth Benham, Alanna Diggs

**Commissioners not in attendance:** Julissa Sanchez, Andrew Ashiofu, Agni Bhattacharya

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

**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**

Meeting opened with a roll call of commissioners present and land and labor acknowledgments. New commissioners introduced themselves.

**Approval of the Agenda (5/6); Approval of the Minutes (4/1)**

5/6 Agenda approved one addition. 4/1 minutes approved.

**Public Comment**

Carl Nelson, who is seeking reappointment to the Seattle Social Housing Developer Board, introduced himself and explained more about his vision for Seattle Social Housing.

**Committee Updates**

- Partnerships & Relationships
  - Discussion and Vote on Seattle Social Housing Developer Board seats
    - Three commissioners, Kate Rubin, Kasey Burton, and Julissa Sanchez, have signed contracts to be part of the workgroup that is going to help develop the tenant governance structure for the Seattle Social Housing Developer Board. They will recuse themselves from discussions and votes related to the Seattle Social Housing Developer.
    - The commission voted on and approved reappointing Carl Nelson and ChrisTiana ObeySumner to the Seattle Social Housing Developer Board.



- The commissioners discussed the current rules around members of the commission speaking on behalf of the commission. The commission voted on and approved allowing members of the Executive Committee to speak on behalf of the Renters' Commission on work the commission is doing or decisions that we have been made, with approval or by request from the commission co-chairs. This vote is in relation to the current co-chairs and Executive Committee.

### **Renters' Commission Budget Discussion and Timeline**

Lydia Felty provided background on a plan and timeline for committees to propose potential budget items for strategic workplan development by the end of 2026. She answered questions from commissioners.

### **Unfinished/New Business**

- The commission voted on and approved writing a letter to reaffirm the call to ban credit checks during rental screening (mentioned in this 2021 letter: [Seattle Renters' Commission Urges City of Seattle to Pass Ordinance Removing Practice of Credit Checks for Rental Applications](#)).
  - The Advocacy and Policy Committee will work on this letter.
- Department of Housing Committee
  - A letter sent to a commissioner indicates that a committee was formed to contemplate a Washington State Department of Housing and committee does not include any tenant voices.
  - The commission voted on and approved writing a letter naming the harm of having landlord groups weigh in on the potential Washington State Department of Housing and the importance of tenants being able to weigh in.
    - The Advocacy and Policy Committee will work on this letter.
    - The letter will be sent to a couple staff in the Washington State Governor's Office.
- Commissioner Commitments
  - Commissioners went around and shared what they plan to work on between now and the next Renters' Commission meeting. This is a new standing item on meeting agendas.
- Focus for Future Presentation from Seattle Department of Construction and Inspections (SDCI)
  - Commissioners provided feedback on what they want to hear about from SDCI. Laura will follow up with SDCI with that direction and get a presentation scheduled.
  - The Seattle Office of Housing may also present at a future meeting in relation to the Multi-Family Tax Exemption program. The Executive Committee will discuss this in its next meeting.
- Civic Poet Joining June Renters' Commission

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned.

### **Decisions and Votes made during this meeting**

1. Approved reappointing Carl Nelson and ChrisTiana ObeySumner to the Seattle Social Housing Developer Board.
2. Approved outreach event tabling guidelines. The goal of these guidelines is to provide the Outreach and Engagement Committee members with the tools and support needed to represent the Seattle Renters' Commission (SRC) at community events.
3. Approved allowing members of the Executive Committee to speak on behalf of the Renters' Commission on work the commission is doing or decisions that we have been made, with approval or by request from the commission co-chairs.
4. Approved writing a letter to reaffirm the call to ban credit checks during rental screenings (mentioned in this 2021 letter: [Seattle Renters' Commission Urges City of Seattle to Pass Ordinance Removing Practice of Credit Checks for Rental Applications](#)).
5. Approved writing a letter naming the harm of having landlord groups weigh in on the potential Washington State Department of Housing and the importance of tenants being able to weigh in.