



**City of Seattle
Seattle Renters' Commission**

SEATTLE RENTERS' COMMISSION (SRC) MEETING MINUTES

July 1, 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, Sam Wolfson, Lydia Felty, Liz Fite, Sasha Wasserstrom, Elisabeth Benham, Alanna Diggs Andrew Ashiofu, Agni Bhattacharya, Daniel Lugo Karen Taylor, Adora Blue

Commissioners not in attendance: Julissa Sanchez, Allan Francis

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 with a roll call of commissioners present and land and labor acknowledgments.

Approval of the Agenda (7/1); Approval of the Minutes (6/3 and 6/10)

7/1 agenda approved. 6/3 and 6/10 minutes approved.

Public Comment

No public comment.

Strategic Plan Consultant Proposal and Vote

The Executive Committee reviewed a few consultant proposals for the Seattle Renters' Commission strategic planning process in 2026. The Executive Committee proposes that the commission contract with BERK Consulting for the process. Co-chair Lydia Felty provided an overview of BERK Consulting's proposal including tasks, timeline, and budget. Commissioners asked questions about feasibility and Lydia responded.

The commission voted on and approved hiring BERK Consulting in accordance with their strategic plan proposal. Lydia will connect staff liaison Laura Jenkins with BERK Consulting staff to move forward with contracting.

Commission Development Committee Budget Proposal and Vote

Commissioner Karen Taylor with the Commission Development Committee reached out to nikkita oliver as a potential facilitator for a training for commissioners on what to consider when planning listening sessions. The Commission Development Committee described more about the possible training.

The commission voted on and approved spending up to \$1,500 for nikkita oliver to provide commissioners a presentation on listening sessions on either July 20, 21, or 22. Laura will work to schedule the session based on commissioner availability.

Committee and Workgroup Updates

Laura provided an overview of the budget allocated to each committee, as voted on by the commission. Commissioners shared updates on committee and workgroup work:

- Executive Committee
 - Lydia shared that the Executive Committee has been mainly focused on preparing for the possible strategic plan consultant vote today.
- Commission Development
 - Commissioner Sam Wolfson provided an update that the Commission Development Committee is focused on planning for the listening sessions training, interviewed the Get Engaged position candidate, and researching other training opportunities. The committee is also working on a conflict resolution protocol document.
 - Laura updated the commission that the person offered the Get Engaged role on the commission has accepted it. The appointment process will not be official until September 2026.
 - Laura updated the commission that Seattle IT approved the commission purchasing a Zoom account to use for committee meetings. Laura has made the request to Seattle IT to see if the commission can have a Google Workspace account for commission business.
- Outreach & Engagement
 - Commissioner Liz Fite shared that the Outreach & Engagement Committee plans to table at a couple upcoming events. The commission coordinated about what is needed for each of the events.
- Partnerships & Relationships
 - Lydia Felty mentioned that the Partnerships & Relationships Committee is building out specific plans for the funds they have been allotted – for example: some type of budget training, event with partners, etc.
 - Karen mentioned she is continuing to work on the community connections which helps map out commissioners' connections to different organizations and groups.
- Advocacy & Policy
 - Commissioner Kasey Burton provided updates on the Advocacy & Policy Committee's work including co-sponsoring an upcoming Pets Against Pet Rent event.
 - Stay Housed, Stay Healthy Workgroup

- Co-Chair Kate Rubin provided an update on the Mayor's junk fee legislation and mentioned a rally on July 8 prior to the Housing, Arts, and Civil Rights Committee meeting scheduled for that day.
- Tenant Privacy and Surveillance
 - Commission Daniel Lugo provided an update on the letter about tenant privacy and surveillance. It is still in progress.

New and Unfinished Business

- Daniel is attending the Renter Town Hall in partnership with the Seattle Ban RUBS (Ratio Utility Billing Systems) campaign on July 11. The commission voted and approved that Daniel can speak at the event about the work the Renters' Commission is doing and on items previously voted on by the commission.
- In relation to the upcoming events related to junk fees, the commission voted on and approved allowing any member of the Renters' Commission to speak in support of banning junk fees.
 - The vote stipulated that if commissioners are speaking on behalf of the commission, they should frame comments similarly to the talking points outlined in the Stay Housed Stay Healthy Coalition talking points document or the letter previously approved by the commission that will be published at a later date.
 - The commission discussed the possible timeline related to the junk fees proposed legislation.

Commissioner Commitments

Commissioners went around and shared what they plan to work on between now and the next Renters' Commission meeting.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned.

Decisions and Votes made during this meeting

1. Approved hiring BERK Consulting in accordance with their strategic plan proposal.
2. Approved spending up to \$1,500 for nikkita oliver to provide commissioners a presentation on listening sessions on either July 20, 21, or 22.
3. Approved that Daniel can speak at the Renter Town Hall in partnership with the Seattle Ban RUBS (Ratio Utility Billing Systems) campaign on July 11 about the work the Renters' Commission is doing and on items previously voted on by the commission.
4. In relation to the upcoming events related to junk fees, the commission voted on and approved allowing any member of the Renters' Commission to speak in support of banning junk fees.
 - The vote stipulated that if commissioners are speaking on behalf of the commission, they should frame comments similarly to the talking points outlined in the Stay Housed Stay Healthy Coalition talking points document or the letter previously approved by the commission that will be published at a later date.