

SEATTLE RENTERS' COMMISSION (SRC) MEETING MINUTES

November 6, 2024

6:30-8:00 PM

Webex link: <https://seattle.webex.com/seattle/j.php?MTID=ma4148d39d8a58d51ca11fb8551fd6a07>

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, Dan Godfrey, and Julissa Sanchez

Commissioners not in attendance: Atif Osami

People with pending appointments in attendance: Julia Payne

Staff: Laura Jenkins

Quorum: Yes

Public Comment: No

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

Agenda

- **Welcome & Acknowledgments**
 - Commissioner Felty led the land and labor acknowledgment.
- **Approval of the Agenda and Minutes**
 - The agenda for 11/6/24 was approved.
 - The minutes from 9/4, 10/2, and 10/21 were approved.
- **Commission Appointments**
 - **Get Engaged Position Update:**
 - Montana Houston is no longer eligible to serve on the Renters' Commission as of 11/3/24.
 - The Mayor's Office is considering an appointment for the remainder of the term (ending 8/31/25). Awaiting a response from Councilmember Moore's office.
 - **Pending Appointments:**
 - Several commissioners' terms are set to expire at the end of February 2025.
 - No updates on appointments or timelines for voting before the end of 2024.
 - **Quorum Reminder:**
 - Active voting members include three appointed commissioners and two holdover voters, requiring three for a quorum.
 - **Relevant City Council Meetings:**
 - Upcoming Housing & Human Services Committee meetings:
 - December 11, 2024: [Seattle Council Calendar](#)
 - Potential 2025 meetings: January 8, January 22, February 12, and February 26.
- **Proposed Bylaws Amendments**
 - Approved without changes.
 - Updates will be published on the SRC website.
- **Social Housing PDA Update**
 - Discussed recruitment for new board members.

- Staff Liaison Jenkins will verify that the recruitment process complies with legal guidelines.
- **Commission's Budget**
 - Remaining funds for 2024: \$2,500.
 - Approved the use of funds for tenant listening sessions with interpretation services if funds can be carried over to 2025.
 - Other permissible expenses include consultant fees, SRC supplies, retreats, and events.
- **Seattle City Budget**
 - **Tenant Services:** Commissioner Rubin provided an update on Councilmember Morales' proposed budget amendment aimed at restoring funding for tenant services.
 - **Concerns Raised:**
 - Linking rental assistance with tenant services is essential for preventing eviction and maintaining stable housing, yet these services are at risk of being defunded.
 - **Advocacy:**
 - The commission voted to write a letter to support the budget amendment to fully fund tenant services and maintain separate rental assistance funding. Three commissioners voted in favor, Commissioner Rubin abstained.
 - The commissioners emphasized the importance of focusing on issues that directly affect renters, particularly fully funding tenant services and maintaining accessible rental assistance programs.
 - **Public Hearing on the Budget:**
 - Encouraged attendance at the 11/12/24 hearing to advocate for budget priorities.
 - Public presence is critical to demonstrate community priorities to councilmembers, especially in person.
 - Attendees were advised to arrive early as public speaking sign-ups typically open by 3:00 PM.
- **Public Comment**
 - None received.
- **Unfinished/New Business**
 - **December Meeting:**
 - Tentatively rescheduled to December 5, 2024.
 - Potential visit from Geoff Tallent of SDCI to consult with the SRC and gather perspectives on tenants' needs.
 - No formal votes are required; it will be an opportunity to hear perspectives.
 - **January Meeting:**
 - Tentatively rescheduled to January 8, 2025.

Decisions Made

- The 11/6 agenda and past meeting minutes (9/4, 10/2, 10/21) were approved.
- The proposed bylaws amendments were approved.
- Allocated \$2,500 for tenant listening sessions with interpretation services (if funding can be carried over to 2025).
- Agreed to write a letter to Seattle City Council supporting the budget amendment, incorporating feedback from commissioners and using language consistent with established talking points.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM.