



**SEATTLE RENTERS' COMMISSION (SRC)**

**MINUTES**

April 3, 2024

6:15-7:45 PM

Webex, online

Seattle City Hall, Room 370 ([more details](#))

**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:** Julissa Sanchez, Daniel Lugo, Kate Rubin&

**Staff:** Zach Frimmel, Lydia Faitalia

**Quorum:** No

**Minutes approved:** No

**Public Comment:** None

(Transcriber's Note: Seattle Renters' Commission meeting minutes are not an exact transcript and represent key points and the basis of discussion. The recording of the minutes is available upon request.)

**Welcome | 6:15 – 6:25**

Co-chair opened with a Land & Labor Acknowledgements.

**Topic: Public Comment | 6:25 – 6:35PM**

Geoff Tallent from the Seattle Department of Construction and Inspections (SDCI) was in attendance as an observer. Geoff said the department is still waiting for the go ahead from the mayor's office to start on the funded project for a stakeholder group. He will let the group know as soon as he receives the approval.

**Topic: Robert's rules and other interested trainings? | 6:35 – 6:45PM**

Lydia said there is funding for this training. The Tao, who runs the Board of Commissions for the city, is offering Robert's Rules of Order training. For those unfamiliar with Robert's Rules, Lydia is aware the indigenous council is using a different model to run their meetings, but has heard that others are using Robert's Rules. As some may know, Robert's Rules is grounded in white supremacy and has been used to silence others. The boards and commissions will be holding a training on April 20<sup>th</sup> and DON is checking



to see if the opportunity can be extended to city commissioners. If not, DON will pool resources and get training for everyone interested in a different way. No one has to decide right now, but if there is interest, that is an option on the table. Julissa expressed interest in receiving this training to have a solid understanding of why it would or wouldn't work for the group. Daniel was also interested in Robert's Rules training and asked if there was a list of other trainings being offered. He was particularly interested in training more specific to operating with city government, the legislative process, and building relationships with city councilmembers. Lydia agreed to compile a list of available trainings to email to commissioners.

Zach discussed his work outside of the SRC with the PACE program (People's Academy for Civic Engagement) for the past year. Part of the curriculum being offered includes topics such as city government 101, budget 101. He's been working with the Office for Civil Rights, who oversee several commissions, to develop training for staff liaisons and extending this to commissioners, including Robert's Rules training. Daniel asked what other city commissions or departments the SRC could collaborate with for renters issues.

Zach acknowledged we are joined by E. Mandisa, a pending appointee. The other commissioners awaiting appointment are Daniel R. Simone, and Julia. Kate R, Daniel Lugo, and Julissa Sanchez are confirmed. E. Mandisa introduced herself and expressed her excitement to being confirmed. She spoke about her attendance at the Seattle Housing Authority listening session with other interested parties from the legal teams and rental advocacy people. Zach said the next Human Services & Housing committee meeting is April 10 at 9:30 (every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday), however, he hasn't heard back about the agenda. Julissa suggested commissioners attend that committee meeting to let them know the SRC is anxious to begin their work and get these appointments confirmed. Registration for online public comments opens at 7:30am. Julissa plans to attend. In response to a question, Zach clarified that reappointments still have voting rights.

**Topic: Replacement for Seattle Social Housing PDA Board | 6:45 – 7:05PM**

Zach sent out a spreadsheet with all the applicants, approximately 20 were interviewed. The SRC appointed 7 of the 13 board members to the Social Public Development Authority board, each having 4-year terms. If someone resigns before their term expires, the SRC must replace that person in the same manner as the person who was originally appointed, per the Charter. There was another resignation, for a total of two. Zach used the spreadsheet to select two who were interviewed but declined the appointment. Those two could now be viable options to replace Dawn Dailey. If they did not want to be considered, the SRC would need to decide what process would be used to proceed with filling those positions. Discussion of some of the applicants followed.

Daniel asked for background on what the PDA board is, their mission, and what the SRC's role is. Zach responded their role is acquiring properties, converting them into social housing. The SRC's work doesn't



intersect with the PDA board other than the specific replacement process. Julissa recalled that organizers of Initiative 135 had written that the SRC would select 7 board members because eventually those positions would be filled by tenants living in social housing.

**Topic: Workplan development | 7:05 – 7:35PM**

Kate raised a question for the group to vote on with respect to the workplan. She suggested having a letter written to the mayor urging he move forward with releasing funds to SDCI, being something the SRC has already advocated for. Kate agreed to send a draft to Zach and Lydia for review. Vote was seconded. Approval was given for Kate to draft this letter. After staff have reviewed it, it would be sent to commissioners prior to sending to the mayor's office.

**Topic: 2024 budget and Mariela's contract | 7:35 – 7:45PM**

The question Zach raised for consideration is whether the entire budget is used to retain Mariela, or pay for the services already rendered, maintaining the second half of the budget for outreach or other activities. After discussion, the group expressed preference to not decide today and add this item to the next meeting agenda.

Commissioners expressed their appreciation to Zach for all his hard work, and Lydia will be taking over staffing the SRC.

**Adjourn | 7:45PM**



## **MAKING PUBLIC COMMENT**

- Public comment period allows individuals to inform and advise the Commission about issues, problems, or concerns.
- During the meeting, the Chair will ask the public to use the Raise Hand function to be added to the public comment list. To use the Raise Hand function:
  - **Online/Desktop App Users**
    - Click the Participants button that sits at the bottom right corner of the window
    - Click on the hand icon that sits at the bottom right corner of the Participants List
  - **Mobile App Users**
    - Click the Participants button that sits at the top right corner of the window
    - Click Raise Hand that sits at the bottom right corner of the Participants List
  - **Call-in Users**
    - Press \*3 to raise your hand
- Once called upon, you will be unmuted with a limit of 2 minutes to speak.
- Provide clear and concise comments.
- Avoid repeating comments already expressed by others.
- After speaking, Lower Hand by using the method to Raise Hand.