



SEATTLE RENTERS' COMMISSION (SRC)

MINUTES

December 6, 2023

6:30-7:45 PM

Webex, online

Seattle Public Library Capitol Hill Branch

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: Kim McGillivray, Kate Rubin, Lydia Felty, Atif Osmani, Dan Godfrey, Tavo Moline

Commissioners not in attendance: Char Smith, Sendia Registin, Julissa Sanchez,

Public attendance: Julia Payne, Robert, Mariela Barriga Chavez, Robert Canamar, Dr. Howard J. Gale

Staff: Zach Frimmel, Civic Engagement Coordinator

Quorum: Yes

Minutes approved: Oct 4, Oct 13 (Special meeting), Oct 20 (Special meeting), Nov 1, Nov 20 (Special meeting)

(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

Co-chairs opened with Land & Labor Acknowledgements and approved meeting minutes for October and November meetings, including the Special Meetings.

Agenda item #1 Public Comment

Robert applied to the SRC. He gave a statement in favor of him being on the commission. He comes from the Peoples with Disabilities commission and being in Seattle politics for a long time. He's interested in serving those who have been neglected and advocated to have a 2-term limits as it is difficult to get anything done in Seattle in just one year. He shared about drug and violence issues taking place in his senior-living building at the Elizabeth James House as well as issues with non-seniors living in the building.



Agenda item #2 Mariela Barriga Chavez, discuss prompt from strategic consultant

Mariela will be the Facilitator and Strategic Advisor for the SRC during their retreat in February. Mariela introduced her personal and professional background. She's lived in Seattle for about 20 years, was a renter for 14 of those years. Comes from an agricultural family with roots in Mexico. Speaks Spanish and will help SRC with Spanish outreach. Often works with Boards of Directors and leadership teams on strategic planning, and groups to achieve their equity goals (racial, innovation, inclusion). Background in youth development to be job and college ready. Currently Director of Student Success at Highline College and an active Community Liaison at the Department of Neighborhoods for Spanish-speaking/Latine communities.

Discussion Prompt: When you joined the commission what did you hope to accomplish? And moving forward, what do you envision for your group? (Responses from different commissioners)

- Cost of living in Seattle is a big issue, biggest priority that affordability is not something the commission can fix but to increase availability and accessibility for Seattle renters. Efficiently using available resource to help them with their rights against mold, safety, proper resources upon eviction, etc.
- Renters have a lot of good ideas for protections they need in the community. SRC has the ear of City Council. Hope to use this group to push forward with renter protections to keep people housed.
- There a lot of renters' rights issues that can hopefully get passed sometime. Had to leave their living situation regarding an HOA issue and that prompted them to start learning about advocacy for how renters can equip themselves with resources and knowledge.

Agenda item #3 Logistics/Planning for Strategic Planning Retreat

- Prioritizing reaching more non-English-speaking renters, diverse communities, and bringing more people in to hear their needs.
- Generating more public comment and drumming up public support for their work
- Streamline communication in between meetings, clear set sub-committees, standardized framework and procedures
- Standardized system to track project management and who is working on what

Agenda item #4 Lydia's confirmation

Lydia Felty was confirmed as a commissioner in December 2023. She rejoins the commission after serving her first year in the Get Engaged position.



Agenda item #5 Other relevant updates from commissioners/subcommittees

- The SRC brainstormed around ways to both communicate efficiently while still adhering to the Open Public Meetings Act. They ideated about having a publicly accessible Google Drive with documents they were working on, but Zach shared that might still not be a viable option but would look into it and also see what other commissions are doing.
- The SRC collaborated with CM Morales' office (who sponsored this budget action) to get a work group funded for \$50,000 to “to study the operational sustainability needs of non-permanent supportive housing providers, with the goal of working with state, county and other funding partners on short- and long-term solutions to identified issues.” The action passed fully funded at \$50,000. Read more [here \(page 238\)](#).
- SRC has been informed that one of their appointed Social Housing PDA Board Members is/is about to resign early from their term limit. This means the SRC will be working on appointing a new Board member. Their process will be to choose a few top candidates from the application pool who moved on to the interview process and they will decide on an appointee in January 2024.