

**SEATTLE RENTERS' COMMISSION
MINUTES**

7/5/2023

6:30-8:00PM

WebEx and L280 ([directions](#))

Commissioners Present: Kim McGillivray, Kate Rubin, Lydia Felty, Sendia, Julissa Sanchez

Commissioners Absent: Dan Godfrey, Atif Osmani, Arianna Laureano, Char Smith

Commission Staff: Zach Frimmel, Department of Neighborhoods

Guests: Rob, Dr. Howard J. Gale

(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

6:30 – 6:40 PM

- Land Acknowledgement
- Labor Acknowledgement

Public Comment (see reverse for process)

6:40 – 7:00 PM

Dr. Howard J. Gale: top two urgencies are creating an Office of Renters' Rights. Have an agenda that has actual topics and action items.

New business, old business

7:00 – 8:00 PM

New commissioners would like to have City send out reminder to the Commissioners to get quorum. Still need to be onboarded to know what the direction. What is the SRC's workplan and what are they looking to focus on?

- Would like to table the discussion around the creation of Office of Renters' Rights (stay big picture) as well as a ban on the Winter Sweeps

Before the pandemic, SRC was working with CM Sawant's office to know what type of support they needed. Moving forward, commissioners will need to have a mutual understanding of which City Councilmembers to stay connected to for continuing advocating for renters.

Commissioners discussed logistics for July 12 Special Meeting.

Questions for B&C:

Can we endorse campaigns that other groups are working? Seattle Renter Organizing Council (SROC) will be going public with the Office of Renters' Rights Standards and the Services Not Sweeps Coalition just launched a winter sweep ban campaign?

Follow-up answer from Ethics and Elections office:

Only matters that go to a vote are covered by the no campaigning with public dollars rule.

Can the SRC have enforcement powers?

Follow-up answer from City Attorney's office:

The Commission is established for the purpose of advising the Mayor and Council on tenants' rights issues and concerns. SMC 3.65.010. Its specific duties are listed in SMC 3.65.040. Those listed duties include to "[m]onitor the enforcement and effectiveness of legislation related to renters and renter protections" and provide "periodic advice" related to enforcement which tracks the bylaws. Thus, the Commission does not have any inherent "enforcement" powers that would be distinct from "monitoring" the enforcement of legislation and reporting back to the Mayor and Council as part of its overall advisory duties.

Adjourn

8:00 PM