



SEATTLE RENTERS' COMMISSION MINUTES

September 6, 2023

6:15-7:45 PM

Webex, online

Seattle Public Library, Capitol Hill Branch

Purpose: The Seattle Renters' Commission 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: Dan Godfrey, Kim McGillivray, Kate Rubin, Julissa Sanchez, Atif Osmani

Commissioners not in attendance: Char Smith, Sendia Registin

Public attendance: Lydia Felty, Julai Payne, Gordon Haggerty, Saunatina Sanchez

Staff: Zach Frimmel

(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 and announcements

August minutes were approved with quorum.

Public Comment (see reverse for process)

No public comments were shared.

Logistics for interviewing SRC applicant (Tae)

Interviewing Candidates: The need to interview candidates for a specific role was discussed, and it was agreed that at least two commission members should be present during interviews.

Meeting with Candidates: A meeting with the candidates to make them feel welcome and supported was planned.

Brainstorm how to spend small amount of funding

Funding Options: Discussion revolved around available funding of \$5,500 for various purposes, including strategic planning, hiring facilitators, language access, and more. The possibility of ongoing funds for translation services was mentioned.

Resource Sharing: Ideas were shared about gathering links and resources for language access, and the suggestion of creating a resource section on the SRC (possibly Seattle Renters Commission) website was discussed.



Community Engagement: The idea of a facilitated retreat to plan for the long term and involve community members was proposed. The involvement of other community contacts was considered to help distill ideas and create a concrete plan.

Check-ins/share-outs from committee meetings since last month's meeting

Website Updates: It was noted that the website needed updates, including bios and headshots of commission members. Some members expressed concerns about headshots.

Twitter Handle: Discussion about claiming an existing Twitter account for the commission and a plan to revisit this topic in the next meeting.

Update on DEI Group: The Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) group provided updates on their work regarding tenant protections and housing supply.

Support for Renters Rights Standards: A discussion about a letter of support for the Office for Renters Rights Standards and potential budget action was held. The need for two separate letters was considered, one focusing on funding and the other on the office.

Budget-Related Letters: It was suggested to prioritize finalizing the budget-related letter in October to protect funding for services and possibly hold off on the office-related letter.

Workgroup Creation: A workgroup was proposed to handle the two letters, with Kate and Dan volunteering to be part of it.

Closing Remarks

The meeting concluded with a question about any additional topics for discussion.