



Community Involvement Commission (CIC) January 2026 Meeting Minutes

January 26, 2026

5:00 – 7:00 pm

Webex Meeting & Seattle City Hall, 3rd Floor, Room 370

Commissioners present: Julio Perez, Rachele Olden, Gabriel de los Angeles, Tim Turner, Chelsea Affleck, Jalen Smith, Elise Herwig, Heidi Morisset, Nada Ramadan **Co-chairs:** Heidi Morisset

Commissioners to Be Appointed (Attending): Olivia Barlow, Negash Hassen

Commissioners Not Present: Kamryn Yanchick

City of Seattle Staff present: Staff Liaison Alvin Edwards

Guest Presenter: Tom Van Bronkhorst, Unified Care Team (UCT)

Public Comment: Staysha Mayor (Community Member)

Transcriber's Note: The notes shown below are summaries of statements provided. They are not transcriptions and have been shortened and edited to include the major points raised. Full comments are retained in the files in the video recording and available upon request.

Call to Order and Roll Call

Staff Liaison Alvin Edwards called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Public Comment

Staysha Mayor raised concerns regarding the condition and accessibility of public restrooms in parks and neighborhood spaces, particularly in Capitol Hill and Cal Anderson Park. Concerns included maintenance, modernization, vandalism, and readiness for the 2026 World Cup.

Follow-Up:

- Staff Liaison confirmed prior receipt of proposal and referral to Seattle Parks and Recreation.
 - Commitment made to connect the community members directly with Parks staff for further discussion.
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Approval of Previous Minutes

- November 2025 meeting minutes – Approved
 - December 2025 meeting minutes – Approved
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Presentation: Unified Care Team (UCT)

Tom Van Bronkhorst provided an overview of UCT operations. UCT is a multi-departmental coordination team addressing public space impacts related to homelessness. The team includes ten City departments and operates under the Multi-Departmental Administrative Rules (MDARs).

Key Points:

- UCT focuses on public space management, not solving homelessness.
- Outreach is conducted prior to any encampment removal.
- Housing or shelter options must be offered before removal actions.
- Encampments are prioritized using a structured assessment system (safety, environmental risk, proximity to schools, community impact, etc.).
- Approximately 300 encampments are active at any given time.
- Community engagement includes coordination with impacted residents and activation strategies for public spaces.
- Budget constraints limit expansion of engagement roles (currently one dedicated engagement staff).

Discussion Highlights:

- Coordination across departments occurs multiple times weekly.
 - Community concerns include prioritization transparency and follow-up communication.
 - Administration transition impacts are currently limited; policy direction may evolve.
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Staff Liaison Updates

Leadership Update:

- New DON Director: Quynh Pham (anticipated start early March).
- Israel Rios joined as Committee Engagement Lead.
- Kolbi Monasmith introduced as Indigenous Advisory Council Liaison.

Staffing:

- Community Engagement Coordinator recruitment closed with 434 applicants.
- Review process extended due to volume.

Commission Updates:

- Two commissioner vacancies (District 1 and Mayoral At-Large) to be filled in Spring recruitment.
 - February meeting moved to February 23 (holiday adjustment).
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Draft Letter to Mayor

The Commission reviewed and finalized a draft letter to the Mayor. Edits were made to reflect the letter representing the full Commission rather than a subcommittee.

Decision:

- Motion passed unanimously to approve the letter.

Next Steps:

- Staff Liaison to format with Commission branding and route through communications and department leadership for review prior to submission to the Mayor's Office.
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Retreat Planning Committee

Committee members: Kamryn Yanchick, Tim Turner, Jalen Smith, Gabriel de los Angeles.

Direction:

- Meet prior to the February meeting.
 - Develop retreat framework and proposed agenda.
 - Goal: Hold retreat in March 2026.
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Subcommittee Report-Outs**Events & Engagement**

- Attended “Before the Badge” event hosted by Seattle University and SPD.
- Discussed representation at future public forums, including public safety and major events (e.g., World Cup 2026).
- Ongoing coordination for shared event participation.

Research & Assessment

- Reviewed historical CIC reports (2017–2019).
- Identified need to re-engage departments previously briefed.
- Priority invitation proposed for the Office of Immigrant and Refugee Affairs.
- Request for annual report template to establish structured reporting.

Communications

- Began mapping internal and external communications strategy.
 - Identifying budget needs and workflow structure.
 - Emphasis on continuity and historical context for Commission messaging.
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Co-Chair Recruitment

- Recruitment period opens through next meeting.
 - Commissioners may self-nominate or nominate others.
 - Elections to occur at February meeting.
 - Only confirmed/approved commissioners are eligible.
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Budget Discussion

- Total 2026 Commission budget: \$5,000.
 - Retreat expenses will be prioritized.
 - Remaining funds to be divided among subcommittees.
 - Subcommittees to define anticipated expenditures.
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Action Items & Follow-Up

- Connect restroom proposal submitter with Parks & Recreation staff.
 - Route approved Commission letter through communications and leadership for submission.
 - Provide roster with commissioner term dates.
 - Locate and distribute annual report template.
 - Retreat Planning Committee to meet and present framework in February.
 - Subcommittees to refine 2026 budget requests.
 - Commissioners submitting co-chair nominations to Staff Liaison.
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Adjournment

Meeting adjourned following subcommittee report-outs and final announcements. Next meeting scheduled for February 23, 2026.