



City of Seattle
Seattle Renters' Commission

SEATTLE RENTERS' COMMISSION (SRC) MEETING MINUTES

September 2, 2026

6:00 - 8:00pm

Webex Meeting and Seattle City Hall Room 370

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: Kate Rubin, Kasey Burton, Sam Wolfson, Lydia Felty, Liz Fite, Elisabeth Benham, Alanna Diggs, Daniel Lugo, Karen Taylor, Adora Blue, Allan Francis, Andrew Ashiofu

Commissioners not in attendance: Julissa Sanchez, Sasha Wasserstrom

Commissioners with pending appointments in attendance: Ashton Hope

City Staff in attendance: Laura Jenkins from Seattle Department of Neighborhoods, Maureen Roat and Heather Warren from Seattle Department of Construction and Inspections

Quorum: Yes

Public Comment: Yes

Transcriber's note: These minutes provide a summary of key points discussed. A full recording is available upon request.

Welcome

Meeting opened with a roll call of commissioners present and land and labor acknowledgments.

Approval of the Agenda (9/2); Approval of the Minutes (8/5) and Public Comment

9/2 agenda approved with additions. 8/5 minutes approved.

Seattle Department of Neighborhoods Director Quynh Pham introduced herself to the commission.

Presentation from Seattle Department of Construction & Inspections Rental Programs

Maureen Roat, Rental Programs Manager, and Heather Warren, Property Owner & Tenant Assistance Manager, with Seattle Department of Construction & Inspections provided an overview of Rental Programs in the department. They shared more about Rental Regulations & Inspections (RRIO), Property Owner and Tenant Assistance (POTA), and outreach programs. Maureen shared more about what a customer experience is like, what the current code related to renters looks like, and who does what.

Commissioners asked questions about the presentation. Maureen also followed up on questions that the commission had asked at a previous meeting. Commissioners and staff ended the conversation by discussing data and further collaboration opportunities.

New and Unfinished Business

- Fair Pricing and Transparency Ordinance
 - Co-chair Kate Rubin provided an update on next steps related to the Fair Pricing and Transparency Ordinance.
- Committee updates
 - Executive Committee
 - Co-chair Lydia Felty provided an update on the ongoing Strategic Planning process.
 - Co-chairs mentioned that the Executive Committee would be setting up meetings with each commissioner to check in especially prior to recruitment starting in October to fill vacant positions.
 - Liz Benham will be stepping down from her role on the commission at the end of the month due to scheduling conflicts.
 - Commission Development
 - Sam Wolfson mentioned that onboarding materials prepared by the committee were sent to the new Get Engaged Commissioner Ashton Hope.
 - Commission workgroup on recruitment and possible vote
 - Sam provided an overview of the proposed recruitment and appointment timeline for any vacant positions and positions with terms ending in February 2027.
 - The commission voted on and approved forming a work group that will focus on applications, interviews, and recommendations for filling the vacant commission seats in early 2027.
 - Members volunteered to serve on the workgroup.
 - The Mayor's Office acknowledged receipt of the commission's letter requesting permission to purchase a Google Workspace account with existing budget.
 - Partnerships & Relationships
 - Kate and Lydia mentioned that they are now co-chairing the Partnerships & Relationships Committee. They briefly recapped the most recent committee meeting including that the committee talked about plans for remaining budget and possible organizations/groups they plan to connect with.
 - Advocacy & Policy
 - Budget proposal and vote
 - Kasey Burton updated on a proposal to shift funding for the Advocacy & Policy Committee's work to pay for a venue, food, facilitator, etc. for a mini housing policy retreat for some members of the Stay Housed, Stay Healthy Coalition. Commissioners voted on and approved amending the plan for the Advocacy & Policy Committee's budget to cover costs associated with a mini retreat to develop housing policy proposals for the City (instead of a state of renting report).
 - Fort Lawton update

- The commission previously voted to support the Fort Lawton redevelopment proposal. They plan to make sure a statement is prepared to share with the City.
 - Outreach & Engagement
 - Allan Francis said the Outreach & Engagement Committee plans to meet in about a week to discuss next steps.
- Commission budget updates and possible vote
 - Staff Liaison Laura Jenkins provided an update on the commission's spending to date for 2026.
 - The commission voted on and approved spending up to \$5,000 of its budget to sponsor a renter town hall in partnership with the Mayor's Office and Stay Housed, Stay Healthy Coalition in South Park on September 15. There was one abstention.
 - Lydia encouraged commissioners to come to the October commission meeting with ideas for how to spend leftover funds by the end of the year.
- Workgroup updates
 - This topic was skipped.

Commissioner Commitments

Commissioners went around and shared what they plan to work on between now and the next Renters' Commission meeting.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned.

Decisions and Votes made during this meeting

1. Voted to form a work group that will focus on applications, interviews, and recommendations for filling the vacant commission seats in early 2027.
2. Approved amending the plan for the Advocacy & Policy Committee's budget to cover costs associated with a mini retreat to develop housing policy proposals for the City (instead of a state of renting report).
3. Approved spending up to \$5,000 of its budget to sponsor a renter town hall in partnership with the Mayor's Office and Stay Housed, Stay Healthy Coalition in South Park on September 15.