

**SEATTLE RENTERS' COMMISSION
MINUTES**

Monday December 4, 2017

6:00 – 8:00 PM

Seattle City Hall, Rm L280 Boards & Commissions

Approved January 11, 2018

Commissioners Present: Beverly Aarons, Jack Barker, Sherry Collier, Jessie Jacobs, Calvin Jones, Daniela Lopez, Michael Padilla Ocampo, Jessica Westgren

Commissioners Absent: L. Curtis Blankinship, Clifford C. Cawthon, David Mooney, Christiana Obey Sumner, Laurie Rocello Torres

Commission Staff: Maureen Sheehan, Department of Neighborhoods (DON)

Guests: John Howell, Cedar River Group Consulting

Seattle Renter's Commission meeting minutes are not an exact transcript, and represent key points and the basis of discussion.

Minutes Approval

There was a motion to approve the minutes from November 6, 2017, and it was seconded. The Commission voted, and the motion was approved.

Announcements

- Ms. Maureen Sheehan announced that DON would like to organize and host three or so “Meet the Commissions” events around the City. This includes the Renter’s Commission, Community Involvement Commission and others. The intent of this event is to educate the City, neighbors and community members about what the City’s Boards and Commissions do. The plan is for DON to host an event in the North, Central, and South neighborhood locations. Ms. Sheehan will coordinate the logistics of the event and it may happen early 2018.

Introduction – John Howell

- Mr. John Howell introduced himself to the Commission. He is a consultant from Cedar River Group Consulting and his work and expertise is around facilitation, mediation, and strategic planning for government and community based non-profit organization. He will be working with the Seattle Renters’ Commission to provide initial support in organizing and creating the Commission’s bylaws, rules and procedures, foundational documents, and work plan.

Working Group Report Out – Bylaws

- The Commission agreed to incorporate the proposals presented this evening into a second draft of the bylaws and discuss at the next meeting.

Working Group Report Out – New Commissioners – Criteria & Applications

- Ms. Jessica Westgren and her group reported about the criteria in selecting new Commissioners as well as community outreach strategies.
- Members of the Commissioners that were present were asked to rank their the focus areas proposed by the working group. The top three categories were: renters with children, immigrant population, districts with low representation by the current commission members, areas with strong homeowner opposition, and the elderly.
- The group will circulate a document for commissioners to add groups that should be notified of the opportunity to serve on the Commission and suggested outreach in the West Seattle, Delridge, and Skyway neighborhoods, as well as districts with less representation in the Commission should be highlighted. Any available grassroots efforts would still need to happen to reach undeserved communities.
- Ms. Sheehan commented the City will provide public solicitation notices, press releases, etc.

Public Comments

- Mr. Jiro Ramji commented about who represents the Yesler Terrace community. He also commented about a significant population of immigrants in Yesler Terrace and he suggested the Commission contact them for potential outreach.

Commissioner Opportunity to Share

- Mr. Calvin Jones commented that tenant protection and housing affordability are his two top issues for future discussion.
- Ms. Westgren voiced the need for this Commission to discuss the HALA provisions. She also commented about the appeal brought by S.C.A.L.E. (Seattle Coalition for Affordability, Livability and Equity), a coalition of neighborhood groups, and their opposition to the upzones.
- Ms. Collier commented about the proposal that was announced by the new mayor regarding housing assistance and development. She noted that the City is aware of the housing and renting issues and are moving forward with solutions.
- Ms. Daniela Lopez commented on the briefing from SDCl at the last meeting and how she was able to share the information and resource with her community.

Other Business

- Ms. Sheehan commented that the process where the Commission decides to endorse or approve a plan presented to them will be outlined in the rules and procedures.
- Commissioners were sent their term lengths based on whether they were appointed by City Council or the Mayor's office, and if they were an odd or even numbered seat. Some expressed frustration about shortened terms due to the fixed start date and the Commission not being assembled until a later date.
- Issues regarding to Commissioner's absences on meetings will be further discussed by the Commission. Appointed Commissioners are handled by the appointing authority.

Adjourn

No further business being before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 7:53 pm