



Community Involvement Commission (CIC) August 2025 Minutes

August 18, 2025

5:00 – 7:00 pm

Webex Meeting & Seattle City Hall Room 370

Commissioners present: Rachelle Olden, Ahoua Kone, Marisol Beas

Co-chairs: Heidi Morisset

Commissioners not in attendance: Julio Perez, Heidi Morisset, Hunter Camfield

City of Seattle Staff present: Staff liaisons Alvin Edwards, Sonny Nguyen

Guest: Kamryn Yanchick (prospective “Get Engaged” commissioner); Nada Ramadan. (community member/prospective commissioner)

Public Comment: No public comment was received.

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.

Agenda Items

1. Log-In Time & Quorum

The meeting was called to order with three commissioners present initially. A quorum was not achieved, and as a result, no formal votes were taken.

2. Welcome & Public Comment

Staff welcomed attendees and invited public comments. None were offered.

New Commissioner Introduction

- Kamryn Yanchick introduced herself as the incoming Get Engaged Commissioner.
 - Originally from Oklahoma City.
 - Living in Seattle for over 1.5 years.

- Works for Native Action Network, a nonprofit focused on leadership development and advocacy training for Native American women.

Appointments Update

- Staff Liaison Nguyen confirmed that Nada R. has been recommended to the Mayor's Office for commissioner appointment, pending approval.
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3. Approval of Prior Minutes (July 21, 2025)

Action postponed due to lack of quorum.

4. October Retreat — Planning Discussion

Timing & Purpose

- Retreat scheduled for October 2025; specific date to be confirmed, avoiding the last week due to a commissioner conflict.
- Desired focus: hands-on subcommittee work to establish 6-month goals.
- Pre-work to be completed in September to maximize retreat productivity.

Format & Content

- Consensus for work-focused sessions rather than outside speakers.
- Proposed topics:
 - Leadership transitions in City government and their impact on priorities/budget.
 - Commission history and purpose (“What is a Commission?” and “Story of CIC”).
 - Budget process context (noting 2025 is an adjustment year).

Location & Logistics

- Preference for venues accessible by transit and no/low cost. Suggestions: Lake City (North Seattle).
- Downtown/central locations deprioritized.
- Food to be sourced from local, community-owned businesses Suggestions: Lebanese/Mediterranean options discussed.

September Meeting Pre-Work

- Proposed all in-person or all-virtual format to allow effective breakout work.
 - Focus: finalize subcommittee missions/visions and prepare draft calendars.
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5. Commission-Selected Seats — Process

- Two commission-selected seats will be filled:
 1. Transition of outgoing Get Engaged member (Marisol Beas) into a commission-selected seat.
 2. One additional seat from existing candidates remains from the recruitment cycle. Commissioners to interview final candidates for the get engaged spot.

Process

- Interview panel: Chair plus one or two commissioners. Panel will make recommendations to the full commission.
- If the full commission interviews, quorum and open meeting rules apply.
- Candidates may attend meetings as non-voting participants until appointed.

Status

- District 6 commissioner appointment approved.
 - Council action pending for Districts 3, 4, and 5, and five mayoral appointments.
 - Target timeline: Council committee September 11, full council action September 18.
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6. Subcommittee Reports & Work Planning

A. Events & Engagement Subcommittee

Members: Julio Perez, Marisol Beas (earlier planning support by Chair Morisset)

Co-Leads: Beas & Perez

Goals

- Provide monthly reports of upcoming events.
- Proactive outreach to community organizations.
- Each commissioner attends one event per quarter with written report-back.

Implementation Plan

- Phase 1 (Months 1–2): Commissioner survey, build community listserv, create 6-month engagement calendar.
- Phase 2 (Months 3–8): Execute calendar, track participation.
- Phase 3: Evaluate engagement metrics and commissioner participation.

Deliverables

- Commissioner interest survey & network map.
- Six-month engagement calendar.

- Organization engagement roster.
- Email outreach template & talking points.
- Plan for annual CIC Open House.

Meeting Schedule: Thursdays before CIC meetings at 5:00 pm.

Status: Survey drafted; staff to support identifying medium-sized community events.

B. Research & Assessment Subcommittee

Members: Ahoua Kone, Hunter Camfield

Purpose

- Measure civic engagement with City services; provide recommendations.

Data Focus

- Democracy Voucher participation.
- Commission meeting attendance (including non-appointed participants).
- Voting participation by district.
- “Find It, Fix It” requests.
- Possible expansion: grants, transit, libraries, community centers, City Council testimony.

Implementation Strategy

- Automated attendance tracking system.
- Compile City datasets.
- Analyze participation by geography/demographics.
- Draft “State of Civic Engagement in Seattle” brief.

Timeline & Status

- Initial compilation and analysis targeted for August 2025.
 - Commissioner Camfield has begun data collection; staff facilitating connections.
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C. Community & Communications Subcommittee

Member: Rachelle Olden (solo at present)

Status

- Scope still in development (visibility, content, communications).
- Commissioner Olden considering transfer to another subcommittee.

- Staff scheduled a working session with Olden on Thursday at 12:00 pm to refine scope and membership.
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7. Staff Liaison Updates

- **Appointments:** Pending approvals as noted; full slate of commissioners expected soon.
 - **Commissioner Bios:** Incoming members asked to provide one-paragraph bios for website and Council packets.
 - **Upcoming Events:**
 - District 6 Public Safety Forum – Green Lake Community Center (Thursday).
 - District 5 Public Safety Forum – Meadowbrook Community Center (next Thursday).
 - Commissioners encouraged to attend regardless of district.
 - **Recruitment:** Next cycle planned for January 2026 to backfill May turnover and maintain continuity.
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8. Action Items Summary

1. Confirm October retreat date and venue; identify catering. (Staff + Chair – September meeting)
 2. Finalize and distribute Events & Engagement commissioner survey. (Subcommittee co-leads + Staff – ASAP)
 3. Compile a list of medium-sized community events for CIC presence. (Staff – by September)
 4. Each commissioner plans attendance at one community event/quarter with report-back. (All Commissioners – begin Q3/Q4 2025)
 5. Research & Assessment: continue dataset collection and analysis. (Kone & Camfield – August 2025, in progress)
 6. Community & Communications: scope-setting working session. (Olden + Staff – Thursday noon)
 7. Set up interviews for commission-selected seat candidates; bring recommendations to commission. (Chair + 1–2 Commissioners – September meeting)
 8. Prepare bios for website and Council packets. (Incoming Commissioners – Sept 11 deadline)
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9. Adjournment & Next Meeting

- Meeting adjourned at 6:00pm
- Next meeting: Monday, September 15, 2025.