



Community Involvement Commission (CIC) June 2025 Minutes

June 16, 2025

5:00 – 7:00 pm

Webex Meeting & Seattle City Hall Room 370

Commissioners present: Julio Perez, Rachelle Olden, Heidi Morisset and Ahoua Kone

Co-chairs: Heidi Morisset and Julio Perez

Commissioners not in attendance: Marisol Beas, Hunter Camfield

City of Seattle Staff present: Staff liaisons Alvin Edwards, Sonny Nguyen, Laura Jenkins and Rosa Garcia

Public comment: Nada Ramadan, Foundation for International Understanding Through Students (FIUTS), and Emma Dorazio, 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.

Meeting Summary

Commissioner Roll Call and Quorum Confirmation

- Roll call confirmed quorum.

Welcome and Public Comment

- No public comments at the beginning of the meeting.

Approval of May 19, 2025 Meeting Minutes

- Motion passed unanimously with no opposition or abstentions.
- Minutes were unanimously approved.

Commissions Partners

1. People's Academy for Community Engagement (PACE)

Presenter: Laura Jenkins

- Civic leadership initiative operated by the Department of Neighborhoods since 2012
- Recent focus: partnering with culturally and linguistically specific organizations
- Cohorts learn about city systems, leadership, organizing, and government access
- Each cohort typically includes 10–20 participants; stipends offered upon completion
- 2025 Partners:
 - Asian Counseling and Referral Service
 - Duwamish Valley Affordable Housing Coalition (Spanish-language cohort)
 - UTOPIA Washington

Key Points:

- Monthly newsletters are sent to alumni, which will now include CIC recruitment
- PACE hosts “pop-up” education events with city departments and communities
- Commissioners expressed interest in deeper collaboration, including joint public events

Action Items:

- Laura to include CIC recruitment in next PACE newsletter (*by July 2025*)
- Laura to send PACE PowerPoint to Alvin and Sonny for distribution (*by June 24, 2025*)

2. Seattle Renters' Commission (SRC)

Presenter: Laura Jenkins

- Established in 2017 to elevate renter perspectives in policy
- All current members are expired holdovers; formal appointments delayed
- Commission continues limited activity due to capacity
- Recent Work:
 - April listening session (with LGBTQ and Women's Commissions)
 - Advocacy report sent to City Council and Mayor's Office
 - Commentary on renter protections, budget priorities, and housing policies

Outlook:

- Anticipated recruitment as appointment process resumes
- Opportunities for public engagement and alignment with other commissions

Action Items:

- Laura Jenkins to share recruitment materials with Julio Perez once available (*pending*)
 - Staff Liaisons to coordinate with City Council to expedite appointments (*ongoing*)
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3. Seattle Youth Commission (SYC)

Presenters: Youth Commissioners Aisha, Mohini, and Harry

- SYC comprises 15 youth appointed by Mayor and City Council
- Four active subcommittees:
 1. Civic Engagement
 2. Education
 3. Health & Human Resources
 4. Safety and Gun Violence Prevention

Highlights:

- Youth-led projects on mental health, reproductive health, school engagement
- Presented to city youth cohorts and participated in public events
- Rebuilding commission visibility after COVID-19 hiatus
- Interest in policy strategy best practices and inter-commission collaboration

Discussion:

- CIC shared subcommittee planning and invited continued collaboration
 - Youth Commissioners emphasized skill-building and outreach goals
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Subcommittee Reports and Work Time

New CIC Subcommittees Introduced:

1. **Communications & News** – Focused on external messaging and media
2. **Events & Engagement** – Community feedback and public interactions
3. **Research & Assessment** – Monitoring city outreach and engagement data

Survey Distributed to determine member preferences.

Action Items:

- All Commissioners to complete subcommittee survey (*by June 21, 2025*)
- Sonny Nguyen & Heidi Morisset to analyze data and assign groups (*by June 28, 2025*)
- Staff to contact commissioners with assignments individually (*Week of July 1, 2025*)

- Staff to confirm technical capacity for Webex breakout sessions and compliance with public meeting law (*by next meeting*)
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Staff Liaison Updates

Recruitment Status

- Over a dozen applications received
- Application period closes **Wednesday, June 19, 2025**
- Interviews in progress
- Staff will recommend appointments and continue coordination with City Council

Community Safety Forums (Mayor's Office)

- Forums begin **July 10, 2025**; run through **August 21**
- Locations: Community centers across Seattle districts
- Purpose: Report back on 2024 feedback, gather new input

Action Item:

- Alvin Edwards to share complete forum schedule via email (*by June 26, 2025*)

Tabling and Outreach Events

- CIC will participate in several events this summer:
 - Rainier Vista Resource Fair – June 27
 - National Night Out – August 5
 - Othello International Festival – August 10

Action Items:

- Sonny Nguyen to share staff/community tabling opportunities (*by June 28, 2025*)
 - All Commissioners to submit swag/promotional item suggestions (*by July 12, 2025*)
 - Staff to consult vendors for CIC-branded items (e.g. pins, reflectors, stress balls)
 - Budget Review: Staff to confirm remaining balance and report back (*by July 5, 2025*)
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Public Comment

Nada Ramadan (FIUTS):

- Introduced FIUTS, a nonprofit serving international students
- Works on civic engagement, cultural exchange, and student leadership
- Expressed interest in applying to CIC and future partnership opportunities

- Highlighted challenges caused by recent federal visa and funding restrictions

Emma Dorazio:

- Attended as a community observer.

Commission Response: Welcomed continued involvement and noted potential collaboration around youth and civic education.

Next Steps & Adjournment

Next Steps:

- Finalize subcommittee assignments
- Launch new meeting structure with scheduled time for subcommittees
- Coordinate cross-commission collaborations with PACE and SYC
- Begin planning for summer tabling and outreach
- Confirm appointment and budget status

Meeting Adjourned: 6:40 PM

Next Regular Meeting: July 21, 2025