



**City of Seattle**  
**Seattle Renters' Commission**

**SEATTLE RENTERS' COMMISSION (SRC) MEETING MINUTES**

February 4, 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, Allan Francis, Adora Blue, Sally Kinney, Sam Wolfson, Lydia Felty, Andrew Ashiofu, Julissa Sanchez, Liz Fite, Agni Bhattacharya

**Commissioners not in attendance:** Daniel Lugo, Angela O'Brien, Karen Taylor

**City Staff in attendance:** Laura Jenkins from Seattle Department of Neighborhoods

**Quorum:** Yes

**Public Comment:** No

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

**Welcome**

Meeting opened at 6:00pm with a land and labor acknowledgment.

**Approval of the Agenda (2/4); Approval of the Minutes (1/7)**

Agenda approved. 1/7 minutes approved.

**Public Comment**

Kolbi Monasmith, the new Indigenous Advisory Council Liaison, introduced herself.

One community member is interested in resources to support people who have purchased condos. Laura Jenkins will follow up with them.

**Presentation and Possible Vote: Seattle Coalition for Family and Relationship Equity (SCFRE)**

Jessa Davis is the Executive Director of Seattle Coalition for Family and Relationship Equity. She presented about SCFRE and shared that the organization has put together draft language for an ordinance to prohibit discrimination in real estate transactions, employment, and in the provision of goods, facilities, and services by any business, the City or City funded entity, on the basis of excluding those in diverse family and relationship structures. They want to see Family and Relationship Structure added to the list of protected classes in the city of Seattle.

In December, the Seattle Human Rights Commission wrote a letter cosigned by the Seattle LGBTQ Commission to the Mayor's Office and Seattle City Council urging adoption of draft legislation from SCFRE.

Jessa will share the draft ordinance and additional information from her presentation with Laura to forward to the commission for members' review. The commission plans to discuss and possibly vote on this topic at the March meeting.

### **Discussion and Vote on Seattle Renters' Commission Bylaws and Commissioner Expectations**

Kasey Burton provided background on some of the proposed changes to the Seattle Renters' Commission bylaws. Commissioners brought up additional proposed edits as well as questions.

Based on the amount of questions and suggestions for changes that still exist, the Bylaws Workgroup will meet in between now and the March meeting to make revisions. Laura will send an updated draft Bylaws in addition to a draft Expectations, Norms, and Procedures document to the commission for review prior to the March meeting. The commission will discuss these draft documents and may take a vote on them at that meeting.

### **Recruitment and Appointments**

Laura provided updates on recruitment and appointments to the Seattle Renters' Commission. The Commission will vote on Commission-selected appointment at March meeting.

[The commission is currently recruiting for three vacancies through March 2.](#) Laura is in contact with both the Mayor's Office and the Councilmember Foster's Office (the Chair of the Housing, Arts, & Civil Rights Committee) about appointments from their offices.

Co-chair Kate Rubin expressed gratitude to Sally Kinney and Angela O'Brien for their service on the commission. Their current terms expire on February 28, 2026 and they will not be seeking reappointment.

### **Discussion and Possible Vote related to Washington Low Income Housing Alliance 2026 Priority Bill Tracker**

The commission discussed the [Washington Low Income Housing Alliance 2026 Priority Bill Tracker](#). The commission voted in favor of allowing the Renters' Commission to do actions, such as sign in pro or con, and potentially share the actions that we took on our social media as long as they are aligned with the recommendations in the document from the Washington Low Income Housing Alliance. There was one vote opposed to this motion.

The commission voted in favor of creating a Workgroup and voted to empower anyone from that Workgroup to speak on behalf of the Renters' Commission. This Workgroup would be discussing the 2026 legislative session bill tracker and able to testify as the Renters' Commission, as long as their position aligns with this document from the Washington Low Income Housing Alliance.

Laura shared considerations to keep in mind if commissioners provide comment at the Washington State level to avoid ethics violations.

## **Updates and Possible Vote Related to the Seattle Social Housing Developer Board**

Members of the Renters' Commission discussed reservations about a couple members' positions on the Seattle Social Housing Board who were appointed by the commission.

The commission voted to form a Workgroup to meet with Tom Barnard and Katie LeBret to discuss their future on the Seattle Social Housing Board, and for them to also attend the upcoming Seattle Social Housing Board meeting, and then report back to the commission with recommendations at the next Renters' Commission meeting. The commission approved language in draft emails to be sent to Tom and Katie. Kasey abstained from this vote.

## **Unfinished/New Business**

- Junk fees
  - Kate mentioned that the Stay Housed, Stay Healthy Coalition has created a draft policy related to junk fees.
  - The commission voted on and approved that the Stay Housed, Stay Health Coalition Meetings Workgroup will write a letter on behalf of the Renters' Commission urging City Council to ban junk fees.
- Workgroup updates
  - Laura provided updates on the status of Commission workgroups.
- Renters' Commission budget
  - Laura provided details on the Renters' Commission's budget. In 2026, the Renters' Commission has a budget of \$55,000:
    - \$50,000 is for the creation of a strategic workplan by the end of 2026
      - These funds can be spent on items that contribute towards the creation the workplan.
      - Councilmember Juarez may ask for updates on the status of the workplan.
        - As a reminder, Councilmember Juarez proposed this \$50,000 as an amendment to the 2026 Seattle Department of Neighborhoods budget.
      - This is one-time funding.
    - \$5,000 is for the commission to spend more generally
      - Funding can be used to support Renters' Commission outreach and engagement efforts
      - In the past few years, this funding has been spent on:
        - Annual retreat
        - Facilitation and food
        - Printing translated copies of Renting in Seattle handbooks
        - Renters' Commission tablecloth
      - This is annual funding.

- The commission will discuss how it would like to spend this \$55,000 budget at a future meeting.
- **Tabling at Events**
  - Renters' Commission Fact Sheet
    - The commission approved draft Renters' Commission fact sheet language Allan proposed to be incorporated into formatting created by the Seattle Department of Neighborhoods Communications team (with grammar tweaks allowed).
  - February 11 Event
    - The commission approved that commissioners can table at an upcoming community event on February 11 on behalf of the Renters' Commission.
- **Focus for Future Presentation from Seattle Department of Construction and Inspections**
  - The Seattle Department of Construction and Inspections is interested in presenting to the commission to provide background/an update on the programs they staff in relation to renters including the Renting in Seattle program, Tenant Services Funding, and more. They are interested in hearing from the commission what they are most interested in learning about so they can tailor their presentation to that.
  - Laura asked for feedback from the commissioners about what they would like to hear about.
- **Addition to Agenda: Response to Immigration and Customs Enforcement in Communities**
  - With the presence of ICE in communities, the commission voted in favor of establishing a work group to come up with recommendations and potentially write a letter. They plan to bring a letter to the commission at its next meeting to discuss these things so the Renters' Commission has a position on this and it can send that out to the City Council.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned.

### **Decisions and Votes made during this meeting:**

1. The commission voted in favor of allowing the Renters' Commission to do actions, such as sign in pro or con, and potentially share the actions that we took on our social media as long as they are aligned with the recommendations in the Washington Low Income Housing Alliance 2026 Priority Bill Tracker document.
2. The commission voted in favor of creating a Workgroup and voted to empower anyone from that Workgroup to speak on behalf of the Renters' Commission. This Workgroup would be discussing the 2026 legislative session bill tracker and able to testify as the Renters' Commission, as long as their position aligns with the Washington Low Income Housing Alliance 2026 Priority Bill Tracker document.
3. The commission voted to form a Workgroup to meet with Tom Barnard and Katie LeBret to discuss their future on the Seattle Social Housing Board, and for them to also attend the upcoming Seattle Social Housing Board meeting, and then report back to the commission with recommendations at the next Renters' Commission meeting. The commission approved language in draft emails to be sent to Tom and Katie.

4. The commission voted on and approved that the Stay Housed, Stay Health Coalition Meetings Workgroup will write a letter on behalf of the Renters' Commission urging City Council to ban junk fees.
5. The commission approved draft fact sheet language Allan proposed to be incorporated into formatting created by the Seattle Department of Neighborhoods Communications team (with grammar tweaks allowed).
6. The commission approved that commissioners can table at an upcoming community event on February 11 on behalf of the Renters' Commission.
7. With the presence of ICE in communities, the commission voted in favor of establishing a work group to come up with recommendations and potentially write a letter.