



City of Seattle
Seattle Renters' Commission

SEATTLE RENTERS' COMMISSION (SRC) MEETING MINUTES

August 5, 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, Agni Bhattacharya, Daniel Lugo, Karen Taylor, Adora Blue, Allan Francis

Commissioners not in attendance: Julissa Sanchez, Andrew Ashiofu, Sasha Wasserstrom

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

Approval of the Agenda (8/5); Approval of the Minutes (7/1 and 7/20) and Public Comment

8/5 agenda approved with additions. 7/1 and 7/20 minutes approved. No public comment.

Activity hosted by Civic Poet Dujie Tahat

Civic Poet Dujie Tahat guided the commissioners in a conversation related to poetry, policy-making, and language. Commissioners and Dujie read poems that are meaningful to them out loud and the commission discussed them. The conversation helped commissioners consider language and meaning in relation to policies.

SharePoint File Sharing Updates and Troubleshooting

Commissioners discussed the difficulties of using SharePoint to share files with one another, especially in relation to permission issues. The commission voted on and approved writing a letter to the Mayor requesting that the City of Seattle approves the purchase of Google Workspace with the commission's existing 2026 budget to help make it easier to access shared commission files.

New and Unfinished Business

- Fair Pricing and Transparency Ordinance

- Co-chair Kate Rubin provided information on proposed legislation related to fair pricing at grocery stores. The bill would prohibit price setting based on personal information, protects common discounts, maintains flexibility for conventional business practices, requires disclosure, and includes enforcement.
- The Renters' Commission voted on and approved that the commission supports the fair pricing bill which covers if the commission decides to write a letter in support of the bill and/or the Executive Committee makes public comment related to it.
- Committee updates
 - Outreach & Engagement
 - The chair of the Outreach & Engagement Committee has stepped down from being committee chair. The Outreach & Engagement Committee meets Monday to check in.
 - Liz Fite debriefed some takeaways from an event that she tabled at on behalf of the commission in July.
 - Additional topics brought up in the meeting will be discussed by the Outreach & Engagement Committee at its next meeting.
 - Commission Development
 - Commissioner Sam Wolfson provided updates on the Commission Development Committee.
 - Land and Labor Acknowledgements Workgroup
 - Partnerships & Relationships
 - The chair of the Partnerships & Relationships Committee has stepped down from being committee chair. Staff liaison Laura Jenkins will help schedule a meeting in the next few weeks.
 - Advocacy & Policy
 - Smart Locks, Tenant Privacy, and Surveillance Cameras Workgroup
 - Lydia provided an update on this group and said there would be more updates in the future.
 - Stay Housed, Stay Healthy Workgroup
 - Junk Fees Legislation Amendments Update and Possible Vote
 - Kate provided an update on proposed amendments and expected proposed amendments to the Junk Fees Legislation.
 - Members voted on and approved that the commission takes the position that pet rent should be banned outright, all opt-in fees should be opt-in and a landlord cannot opt a tenant in, and junk fees should remain "Junk Fees".
 - Commissioners also voted to support City Council amendments 1-4 to the Junk Fees legislation with the caveat that they would recommend implementation of the suggestions on the amendments provided by core members of the Stay Housed, Stay Healthy Coalition.

- The commission voted on and approved supporting a new amendment to the Junk Fees Bill to include reporting from Seattle Department of Construction and Inspections (SDCI) on the number of complaints, fee/penalties issued, and biggest offenders.
- Members voted on and approved that any Seattle Renters' Commission commissioner can provide public comment in alignment with the items voted on related to the Junk Fee Bill.
 - Response to Immigration and Customs Enforcement in Communities Workgroup
- Executive Committee
 - Co-chair Lydia Felty provided an update on the commission's ongoing strategic planning process.

Commissioner Commitments

Commissioners went around and shared what they plan to work on between now and the next Renters' Commission meeting. This was Commissioner Agni Bhattacharya's last meeting as a Get Engaged Commissioner. Other members showed appreciation for Agni's time on and service to the commission.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned.

Decisions and Votes made during this meeting

1. Approved writing a letter to the Mayor requesting that the City of Seattle approves the purchase of Google Workspace with the commission's existing 2026 budget.
2. Approved that the commission supports the fair pricing bill.
3. Approved that the commission takes the position that pet rent should be banned outright, all opt-in fees should be opt-in and a landlord cannot opt a tenant in, and junk fees should remain "Junk Fees".
4. Support City Council amendments 1-4 to the Junk Fees legislation with the caveat that they would recommend implementation of the suggestions on the amendments provided by core members of the Stay Housed, Stay Healthy Coalition.
5. Approved supporting a new amendment to the Junk Fees Bill to include reporting from Seattle Department of Construction and Inspections (SDCI) on the number of complaints, fee/penalties issued, and biggest offenders.
6. Approved that any Seattle Renters' Commission commissioner can provide public comment in alignment with the items voted on related to the Junk Fee Bill.