

Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission Regular Meeting

May 7, 2025

The May 7, 2025, Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission (SEEC) Regular Meeting convened in Seattle Municipal Tower Conference Room 4096 and remotely. Chair Zach Pekelis and Commissioner Vivian Vassall were present. Vice-Chair Jonathan Schirmer and Commissioners Bobby Forch, Kristin Hawes, and Richard Shordt participated via Webex. Commissioner Chalia Stallings-Ala'ilima was absent. Executive Director Wayne Barnett and staff members Fedden Amar, Cliff Duggan, and Renée LeBeau were present. Staff Chrissy Courtney, Randal Fu, Polly Grow, and Marc Mayo participated via Webex as well as Assistant City Attorneys Joe Levan and Gary Smith.

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m.

Final Action Items

1. SEEC F-1 Modification Request (Erika Evans)

The Chair recused himself from the proceeding due to a personal friendship with Ms. Evans and her spouse. Per the Chair's request, Commissioner Hawes carried the discussion and action forward. Commissioner Hawes acknowledged that the Washington State Public Disclosure Commission had previously approved Ms. Evans' modification request in light of potential concerns for safety associated with their prior employment. Commissioner Vassall made the motion to approve Ms. Evans' request to modify the disclosure requirements as outlined in her application. The motion was duly seconded and passed with five ayes.

2. Adoption of March 5, 2025, Commission Regular Meeting minutes

Hearing no discussion of the meeting minutes, the Chair called for a motion.

Commissioner Hawes made the motion to approve the March 5 SEEC Commission Regular Meeting minutes. It was duly seconded and passed with six ayes.

Discussion Items

1. Code of Ethics Ordinance, Council Bill 120978 Version: 1

The Executive Director gave a brief introduction on the proposed amendment to the Ethics Code. The Director advised the Commissioners of their role to interpret and advise on the law. The Chair noted that Commission is not a legislative body and has limited authority to issue regulations under the Code.

Public Comment Period

The Chair called for a public comment period. Each commenter was allowed up to two minutes. At the end of the period, the Chair thanked the people for their comments.

2. CY2024 Financial Interest Statement Summary

The Executive Director reported that all of the 2,073 identified employees had submitted their Financial Interest Statements for CY2024 by May 1. The focus will now be on following up with the remaining identified City Boards and Commission members who have not submitted.

3. Democracy Voucher Program report

Ms. LeBeau reviewed the Democracy Voucher Program update report for May 7.

4. Executive Director's report

The Executive Director encouraged the Commissioners to view the Council's Governance, Accountability & Economic Development Committee meeting on May 8 at 2:00 p.m.

Hearing no further comments for the good of the order, the May 7, 2025, SEEC Commission Regular Meeting was adjourned at 5:02 p.m.