



SEATTLE RENTERS' COMMISSION (SRC)

MINUTES

March 6, 2024

6:15-7:45 PM

Webex, online

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: Julissa Sanchez, Kate Rubin, Lydia Felty, Dan Godfrey

Commissioners not in attendance: Atif Osmani

Public attendance: Julia Payne, Michael McCrystal, Simone Barron, Daniel Lugo

Staff: Zach Frimmel, Lydia Faitalia (Civic Engagement Manager at DoN)

Quorum: Yes

Minutes approved: January and February

Public Comment - no public comment

(Transcriber's Note: Seattle Renters' Commission meeting minutes are not an exact transcript and represent key points and the basis of discussion. The recording of the minutes is available upon request.)

Welcome

Co-chair opened with a Land & Labor Acknowledgements.

Topic: Geoff Tallent - updated from SDCI about tenant workgroup project

Geoff Tallent is the Renter Program Manager at the Seattle Department of Construction and Inspections (SDCI). SDCI are the project managers of the tenant workgroup project and as previously documented in SRC minutes, SDCI have been directed by the Mayor's Office to pause this project until approved. There was a concern from the SRC about the original June 2024 deadline to have this workgroup's deliverables by so Geoff mentioned that the deadline can be extended without too much trouble, especially given the pause. Kate Rubin, from Be:Seattle works closely with and is partly funded by SDCI. Wearing her SRC hat, she was curious if there are any other avenues to advocate for this project to get approved, which there does not seem to be. Geoff cautioned the SRC to not too ahead of SDCI in this process because, if/when the project is unpaused, SDCI will be organizing the other stakeholders and there might be specific selection criteria for the renters that come down from the Mayor's Office or City Council. Geoff



shared he will be in close communication with the SRC staff liaison and offered to join the SRC meetings more regularly to stay informed on the SRC's work.

SRC advocated to get started on the workgroup in a strategic way that would not require needing to backtrack on the recruitment process. They deliberated on next steps using their experience from their process and timeline from the Seattle Social Housing PDA Board recruitment.

The co-chair moved to vote on continuing with their recruitment process, which was seconded by another commissioner. The votes were 3 "Yes" and 1 "abstain", which passed a majority of the votes (with quorum being 3 commissioners).

Topic: Workplan development

There were questions about how much of a heads-up did SSH PDA Board work get, which was about a week. The only people who have power in the workgroup to make decisions are the people in the workgroup. Could potentially narrow down to top three and then added in more people into the workgroup for any missing voices not represented.

Several commissioners are thinking of moving forward with application process and will cross any bridge they need down the road if there is any criteria they need to comply with.

What is the possibility of losing the funding?

It's policy to have the Mayor review and approve these types of efforts. Recruit people who are going to be there for the job and not the stipend. Do recruitments without stipends or guarantee.

Clearly state "this is what was set up, this is what the responsibilities are" but leave out compensation. Keep language limited to budget action.

Moving forward with application

3 votes "Yes"

1 vote "Abstain" - as

Post-meeting update: As of 3/21/24 - Lydia Faitalia sent out an email update to the SRC to officially pause this project until further notice so they could focus on finalizing their 2024 workplan to share with City Council and Mayor's Office as well as replacing the SSH PDA Board member who resigned in March 2024.

Agenda item #2 Co-chair election discussion



SRC discussed their approach to their upcoming co-chairs elections. Zach shared the election process and co-chair responsibilities. They scheduled a Special Meeting for March 18 to hold their co-chair elections.

Post-meeting update: CM Moore's was not able to confirm the 7 pending SRC commissioner appointments at the March 13 (nor March 27) Housing and Human Resources committee meeting so the SRC has not been able to hold their co-chairs elections.

Topic: Voting on Andrew Ashiofu for an interview

Michael and Simone are interested in interviewing Andrew once they have commissioner status. Co-chair motioned to vote on interviewing Andrew, which was seconded by another commissioner.

4 votes "Yes"

0 votes

Topic: Replacement for second resignation from PDA Board

Zach informed the SRC that they will have an upcoming replacement to work on for another SRC-appointed SSH PDA Board member who has had some personal challenges come up and needs to focus on them. The replacement will be discussed at the April meeting.

Adjourn – 7:46pm