



# AGENDA

## Seattle Human Rights Commission

Thursday, February 02, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.

Join virtually via [WebEx](#) or at Seattle City Hall, Bertha Knight Landes  
Room: 600 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Seattle, WA 98104

---

**Commissioners:** J. Abdullah, E. Alem\*, J. Bechtold, C. Alvarado\*, A. Dailey, T. Diamond (meeting facilitator), V. Lakshmanan\* (timekeeper), M. Mitnick, B. Quander (Get Engaged)

*\*Un-Confirmed Commissioners*

**Staff Liaison:** Meredith Stone, Commissions Manager

1) **CALL TO ORDER** (6:00 p.m.)

2) **LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

3) **ROLL CALL**

4) **ROBERT'S RULES OF ORDER REVIEW**

5) **AGENDA CONFIRMATION**

6) **PUBLIC COMMENT** (6:10 p.m.)

- a) Public comment shall be limited to two (2) minutes per speaker. The total time allotted for public comment is 16 minutes.

7) **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** (6:26 p.m.)

- a) Minutes of the November 3, 2022 SHRC Meeting.  
[November 3, 2022, SHRC Draft Minutes](#)
- b) Minutes of the December 1, 2022 SHRC Meeting.  
[December 1, 2022, SHRC Draft Minutes](#)
- c) Minutes of the January 5, 2023 SHRC Meeting.  
[January 5, 2023, SHRC Draft Minutes](#)

8) **BUSINESS AGENDA**

- a) **Ad-Hoc Subcommittee Updates – Bylaws, Retreat Planning, and Election Procedures** (6:30 p.m.)  
Commissioner T. Diamond and Commissioner M. Mitnick

[Election Procedures](#)  
*Approve Procedures*

**b) Elections (6:40 p.m.)**  
Commissions Manager, M. Stone

**c) Review Dignified Public Infrastructure Resolution (6:55 p.m.)**  
Commissioner M. Mitnick

[Dignified Public Infrastructure Resolution](#)  
*Approve Resolution*

**d) Discussion on the Legal Scope of the SHRC (7:05 p.m.)**  
Ariel Schneier, City Attorney's Office

**e) Discussion on Amicus Status (7:30 p.m.)**  
Commissioner M. Mitnick

**9) SEATTLE OFFICE OF CIVIL RIGHTS UPDATES (7:45 p.m.)**  
Commissions Manager M. Stone

**10) ANNOUNCEMENTS (7:50 p.m.)**  
Commissioner T. Diamond

**a) Reminder:** Annual retreat scheduled for February 4, 2023 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

**b) SHRC Composition:** Confirmations of commissioners-in-waiting.

**c) Next Regular Meeting:** The next Seattle Human Rights Commission regular meeting is scheduled for March 2, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.

**11) ADJOURNMENT**

## Seattle Human Rights Commission MINUTES

Thursday, Nov 3, 2022, 6:00–8:00 p.m.

[WebEx](#) and in person at Seattle City Hall 600 4th Avenue, Seattle, WA 98104,  
Bertha Knight Landes Room

**Facilitators:** As listed  
Lakshmanan

**Notetaker:** C. Alvarado

**Timekeeper:** V.

*(Next month: TBD )*

*(Next month: TBD)*

**Commissioners Present (11):** A. Dailey, B. Quander (Get Engaged)\*, C. Alvarado\*, J. Abdullah, J. Bechtold, M. Mitnick, N. Bennett, (Interim 5 Commissions Co-Chair), T. Diamond, V. Lakshmanan\*

*\* Un-Confirmed Commissioners*

**Commissioners Absent:** E. Alem\*

**Seattle Office of Civil Rights Attendee(s):** M. Idowu, Civil Rights Advisory Commission Liaison

**Public Attendees:** Daniel Colvin, Anitra Freeman (Women in Black), E Bailey Medilo, Kate Rubin (Be: Seattle), Sydney Provence, Nickel (grad student at UW), Equinox, Kip, Joy R.

Time	Topic	Presenter/Facilitator
6:07	<p>Land Acknowledgement</p> <p>Call to Order and Attendance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Breyannah and Chloe-Symone taking minutes</li> <li>- called to order at 6:07 pm</li> </ul> <p>Attendance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- not present: Daley, Lakshmanan</li> <li>- present: Quander, Alvarado, Abdullah, Bechtold, Mitnick, Bennett, Diamond</li> </ul> <p>Vote was not taken on the agenda</p> <p>Public Comment/Introductions (1 min each)</p> <p>Public comments advocated stopping the sweeps in Seattle from: Anitra Freeman (Women in Black, homeless awareness project), Kip (public citizen), Daniel Colvin (Seattle resident for 10 years)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Matthew Mitnick - motion to extend public comment for each person (requires a 2/3rds majority)</li> <li>- Jo Bechtold and Tricia Diamond - seconded</li> <li>- Jeffrey Abdullah - yes in chat</li> <li>- Andrea Dailey and Natasha Bennett - abstained</li> <li>- Motion passed - we are extending public comment</li> </ul> <p>Continued public comment advocating a motion to stop the sweeps:</p> <p>Joy R. (community volunteer), E Bailey Medilo (request to cancel Human Rights Day), Chas, Equinox, Kate Rubin (Organizer at Be: Seattle), Sydney Provence, Nickel (grad student at UW)</p>	N. Bennett

<p>6:35 -6:45</p>	<p>Approve September Minutes *Needs vote</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Tricia Diamond - motioned to approved</li> <li>- Natasha Bennett - Seconded</li> <li>- Jo Bechtold, Jeffery Abdullah, Matthew Mitnick, Andrea Dailey - yes in the chat</li> </ul> <p>Approve October Minutes *Needs vote</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Matthew Mitnick - motioned to approve</li> <li>- Tricia Diamond - seconded</li> <li>- Natasha Bennett, Jo Bechtold, Jeffrey Abdullah, Andrea Dailey - yes in the chat</li> </ul> <p>WAZE FORWARD (re-vote):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Tricia Diamond - motion to support</li> <li>- Matthew Mitnick - seconded</li> <li>- Natasha Bennett, Jo Bechtold, Jeffrey Abdullah, Andrea Dailey - yes in the chat</li> </ul>	<p>N.Bennett</p>
<p><b>Old Business</b></p>		
<p>6:47-6:56</p>	<p>Daley, Mitnick, Diamond and Quander discussed when elections should be held.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Mitnick: motion to hold elections today, Diamond seconded             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Dailey - no</li> <li>○ Abdullah, Bechtold, and Bennett - yes</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Voting started at 6:49 pm</p> <p>Next meeting: December 1</p> <p>Timeline of activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● December: Human Rights Day</li> <li>● January: Annual Retreat to define work plan             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 5-6 hours on a Saturday in January</li> <li>○ Proposed date of Jan 21th based on room availability</li> <li>○ Commissioner Mitnick - doing a poll to find a good date that works with everyone</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>N. Bennett</p>
<p><b>UPDATES</b></p>		
<p>6:56-8:15 pm</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Human Rights Day Planning Update- Urgent request for support             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Dailey described the background behind Human Rights Day and status of the planning efforts. SHE proposed moving forward with the codified Human Rights Day. Dailey requested commissioners to assist with logistics for the day of the hybrid event.</li> <li>○ Commissioners discussed the budgeting process of reallocating money from HRDC for Human Rights Day, Meredith Stone informed the SHRC current</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>A. Dailey and HRD Planning</p> <p>M. Mitnick</p>

monies for human rights day is part of restricted funding from the city

- Disruptive public comments were made regarding Commissioners in chat.
- Two members of the public, Anitra Freeman from-WHEEL and Joy, spoke and expressed their opinion on not holding Human Rights Day.
- Matthew Mitnick motioned to extend the meeting time until 8:15 pm
  - Jo Bechtold - seconded
  - Jeff Abdullah, Matthew Mitnick and Jo Bechtold - yes
  - Tricia Diamond, Andrea Daily - no
- Motion required  $\frac{2}{3}$  majority as agenda change per Robert's Rules; did not have quorum of confirmed commissioners
- Tricia Diamond left meeting at 8 pm
- Natasha Bennet proposed an ad hoc meeting to address voting.

**Meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm**

# Seattle Human Rights Commission MINUTES

Thursday, December 1, 2022, 6:00–8:00 p.m.

[WebEx](#) and in person at Seattle City Hall 600 4th Avenue, Seattle, WA 98104,  
Bertha Knight Landes Room

**Facilitators:** As listed

**Notetaker:** B. Quander  
(Next month: TBD)

**Timekeeper:** T. Diamond  
(Next month: TBD)

**Commissioners Present (11):** A. Dailey, B. Quander (Get Engaged)\*, E. Alem\*, J. Bechtold, M. Mitnick, N. Bennett, (Interim 5 Commissions Co-Chair), T. Diamond

\* Un-Confirmed Commissioners

**Commissioners Absent (no more than 5 absent for quorum):** C. Alvarado\*, J. Abdullah, V. Lakshmanan\*

**Seattle Office of Civil Rights Attendee(s):** M. Idowu, Civil Rights Advisory Commission Liaison

**Public Attendees:** Megan Murphy, Dr. Howard Gale, Joy

Time	Topic	Presenter
	<p><b>Call to Order and Roll Call</b></p> <p>Commissioner N. Bennett called the meeting to order at 6:08 p.m.</p> <p>Commissioner A. Dailey originally joined the meeting on time but then left until a decision was officially made about recording the meeting.</p> <p><i>A motion was made by Commissioner Mitnick and seconded by Commissioner Bechtold to allow the recording of the meeting. Commissioners Bechtold, Mitnick, and Bennett voted in favor. Commissioner Diamond abstained. Motion passed.</i></p> <p><i>A motion was made by Commissioner M. Mitnick and seconded by Commissioner J. Bechtold to hold a revote on amicus status in the Seattle police consent decree at the January 2023 commission meeting. Commissioner N. Bennett (mistakenly) restated the motion to as “Discuss Amicus Status” instead of “Revote on Amicus Status. N Bennett called for votes to “discuss”. Commissioners J. Bechtold and M. Mitnick voted in favor. Commissioner N. Bennett and T. Diamond abstained. Commissioner Dailey did not cast a vote. Motion passed.</i></p> <p><i>PROCEDURAL NOTE: It is unclear whether the passed motion is to take a “revote” or simply “discuss.”</i></p>	<p>N. Bennett</p>

	<p><b>Public Comment</b></p> <p>The following community members shared comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Megan Murphy – Spoke about being stalked. Would like support in getting it stopped.</li> <li>● Dr. Howard Gale from SeattleSTOP.org -- as the initiator of the Seattle Human Rights Commission April 7, 2022, vote for the Seattle Human Rights Commission to take on amicus status in the Seattle police consent decree -- to re-vote that decision at the next meeting and either rescind it or vote a plan to move forward with what was voted on 8 months ago.</li> <li>● Joy – Spoke about ongoing homeless encampment sweeps. Says they will stand with folks affected by the sweeps and is asking for all commissioners to condone the violent sweeps.</li> <li>● Call in user – Stated that this was the last meeting to oppose the homeless encampment sweeps and expressed that it’s important to make a statement against the sweeps. The opposition of sweeps legislation should be on this meeting’s agenda.</li> </ul>	<p>N. Bennett</p>
	<p>Commissioner Dailey returned to the meeting at 6:28 p.m.</p>	
	<p><b>Approve November 3, 2022, Minutes</b></p> <p><i>A motion was made by Commissioner Diamond and seconded by Commissioner Bennett to table the approval of the November 3, 2022, minutes until the next commission meeting in January 2023. Motion passed unanimously.</i></p>	<p>N. Bennett</p>
	<p><b>Amendment to the Agenda</b></p> <p><i>A motion was made by Commissioner Mitnick and seconded by Commissioner Bechtold to add the Opposition of Sweeps legislation to the agenda between 7:15 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. Commissioners Mitnick and Bechtold vote in favor. Commissioners Diamond, Dailey, and Bennett voted against. Motion failed.</i></p>	
<p><b>Review and discussion of SHRC Governing Documents and 2022 Work Plan</b></p>		

	<p><b>Governing Documents:</b> Commissioner N. Bennett reviewed the following documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Seattle Municipal Code pertaining to the role of the Seattle</li> <li>● Human Rights Commission (SMC 3.14.391)</li> <li>● Seattle Human Rights Commission Bylaws</li> <li>● Commissioner Handbook</li> <li>● City of Seattle Boards and Commissions Orientation Training (Which includes various other policies and guidelines: OPMA, Ethics, Public Records Act, etc.)</li> </ul> <p><b>Review Seattle Human Rights Commission 2022 Work Plan:</b> This item was not discussed.</p>	N. Bennett
	<p><b>Roll Call:</b> Liaison M. Idowu held a roll call acknowledgment requesting for all commissioners to agree to the commission by-laws. All commissioners agreed.</p>	M. Idowu
<b>Retreat Planning</b>		
	<p>Commissioner N. Bennett presented on retreat planning logistics. The retreat will take place either February 4, 2023, or February 5, 2023, in the Bertha Knight Landes room where security staff will be on-site.</p> <p><b>Task Force and Committee Signups:</b> Commissioners expressed interest in joining the following task forces:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Review of by-laws: Commissioner Quander, Commissioner Diamond, Commissioner Alem, and Commissioner Mitnick.</li> <li>● Elections: Commissioner Quander</li> <li>● Retreat Planning: Commissioner Quander, Commissioner Diamond</li> </ul> <p>Commissioners Dailey and Bechtold stated that they had no task force preference.</p> <p><i>A motion was made by Commissioner Mitnick and seconded by Commissioner Bechtold to extend the meeting until 8:10 p.m. to discuss the Opposition to Sweeps legislation. Commissioners Bechtold, Mitnick, and Bennett voted in favor. Commissioner Dailey opposed. Commissioner Diamond abstained. Motion passed.</i></p>	N. Bennett, A. Dailey, M. Idowu
<b>Seattle Office of Civil Rights Update</b>		
	There were no updates reported.	M. Idowu
<b>Added Item: Opposition to Sweeps Legislation</b>		
	Commissioner Mitnick presented on changes made to the Opposition to Sweeps legislation.	M. Mitnick



Commissioner Bennett requested clarification on the purpose of the legislation. Commissioner Mitnick clarified that it would show the commission's stance on the homeless encampment sweeps and would open the door for the commission to take further action in the future.

*A motion was made by Commissioner Mitnick and seconded by Commissioner Bennett to call to question. Commissioner A. Dailey left the meeting at 8:16 p.m. causing quorum to be lost. A vote was unable to be taken.*

**ADJOURNMENT**

*Commissioner Bennett adjourned the meeting at 8:17 p.m.*

Minutes recorded by Commissioner Quander

**SHRC Monthly Meeting December 1, 2022 - Chat Transcript**

from Hannah Krieg The Stranger to everyone: 6:05 PM

<https://www.dmlp.org/legal-guide/washington/washington-recording-law>

from k to everyone: 6:06 PM

<https://www.dmlp.org/legal-guide/washington/washington-recording-law#:~:text=Washington%20law%20allows%20you%20to,orderly%20conduct%20of%20the%20meeting.>

from k to everyone: 6:06 PM

Yeah you all would be in violation of washington state law if you were to not let people record

from N Bennett to everyone: 6:06 PM

I'm going to call this meeting to order in just a minute

from Hannah Krieg The Stranger to everyone: 6:06 PM

two-party consent refers to private phone calls. "Washington law allows you to use sound and video recording devices at public meetings (i.e., meetings of a governmental body required to be open to the public by law), unless they disrupt the orderly conduct of the meeting."

from k to everyone: 6:07 PM

The 2 party consent recording does not apply to public officials and meetings which you all are

from Matthew Mitnick he/him to everyone: 6:11 PM

yes

from Jo Bechtold to everyone: 6:11 PM

yes

from N Bennett to everyone: 6:11 PM

yes

from Bryannah Quander to everyone: 6:11 PM

Yes - for the record

from Tricia Diamond, PhD to everyone: 6:11 PM

Abstain

from Matthew Mitnick he/him to everyone: 6:14 PM

motion to extend public comment to 2 minutes

from k to everyone: 6:20 PM

I'm a call in user because my mic doesnt work

from Dr. Howard Gale, SeattleSTOP.org to everyone: 6:21 PM

This is a request from SeattleSTOP.org -- as the initiator of the SHRC April 7, 2022 vote for SHRC to take on amicus status in the Seattle police consent decree -- to re-vote that decision at your next meeting and either rescind it or vote a plan to move forward with what was voted on 8 months ago.

from k to everyone: 6:23 PM

I believe commissioner mitnick had his hand up first

from Matthew Mitnick he/him to everyone: 6:24 PM

yes

from Tricia Diamond, PhD to everyone: 6:24 PM

Yes

from Jo Bechtold to everyone: 6:24 PM

yes

from N Bennett to everyone: 6:24 PM

yes

from Bryannah Quander to everyone: 6:24 PM

Abstain for the record

from k to everyone: 6:25 PM

That would be really good!

from Matthew Mitnick he/him to everyone: 6:25 PM

yes

from Bryannah Quander to everyone: 6:25 PM

Yes

from Jo Bechtold to everyone: 6:26 PM

yes

from N Bennett to everyone: 6:26 PM

abstain

from Tricia Diamond, PhD to everyone: 6:26 PM

Abstain

from Tricia Diamond, PhD to everyone: 6:29 PM

I did not say we werent

from k to everyone: 6:30 PM

As a member of the public I'm saddened that your agendas are created in back rooms away from the public's eyes and the people whom you represent

from Bryannah Quander to everyone: 6:31 PM

What was the proposed time, Matthew?

from k to everyone: 6:32 PM

It's kinda hypocritical that you all are wasting 15 minutes arguing over taking 15 minutes off of an agenda item

from Tricia Diamond, PhD to everyone: 6:35 PM

My apologies, as timekeeper we are seriously behind ....

from Bryannah Quander to everyone: 6:36 PM

I recommend someone calling to question.

from k to everyone: 6:37 PM

By both sides are u saying we should listen to the cops lie to us and cover up their anti-community crimes???

from k to everyone: 6:38 PM

Also to be clear the people trying to shut down the "Oposition to Sweeps" legislation are the ones wasting time

from k to everyone: 6:39 PM

I don't think that's legal at all i feel like your liason just made that up

from k to everyone: 6:39 PM

Out of courtacy is not the same as washington state law

from k to everyone: 6:40 PM

can you show us the exact RCW or i think we should move forward with mitnick's motino

from k to everyone: 6:41 PM

you all don't even have a legal argument so please stop wasting our time! (and let mitnick's motion pass)

from k to everyone: 6:42 PM

Are you all saying public comment was a waste of time?

from Matthew Mitnick he/him to everyone: 6:43 PM

yes

from Bryannah Quander to everyone: 6:43 PM

Yes

from Tricia Diamond, PhD to everyone: 6:43 PM

Yes

from N Bennett to everyone: 6:43 PM

yes

from ezra to everyone: 6:44 PM

yes

from Jo Bechtold to everyone: 6:44 PM

yes

from k to everyone: 6:45 PM

CLARIFICATION: It does not have to be at the end under wa state law

from k to everyone: 6:45 PM

The administrators are clearly lying

from k to everyone: 6:45 PM

stop lying to the community

from Tricia Diamond, PhD to everyone: 6:45 PM

It needs to be according to Seattle policies

from k to everyone: 6:45 PM

Can you cite the specific municipal code

from Tricia Diamond, PhD to everyone: 6:46 PM

Our Liaison said we cannot do this

from k to everyone: 6:47 PM

Can your liason send us the actual municipal code

from Matthew Mitnick he/him to everyone: 6:47 PM

yes

from k to everyone: 6:47 PM

Also just vote i am a student renter and i have a lot of other stuff to do and you all continue to waste my time fighting to not make an actual statement on the harming of our unhoused neighbors

from k to everyone: 6:47 PM

Which code??

from k to everyone: 6:48 PM

WA state law does apply to all open and public meetings in wa state

from k to everyone: 6:48 PM

also mitnick called this into question and the vote passed so you must vote on this motion per parli pro

from k to everyone: 6:49 PM

yess!

from k to everyone: 6:49 PM

plz vote

from Matthew Mitnick he/him to everyone: 6:49 PM

yes

from Jo Bechtold to everyone: 6:49 PM

yes

from Bryannah Quander to everyone: 6:49 PM

yes for the record as support

from Andrea Dailey to everyone: 6:49 PM

no

from Tricia Diamond, PhD to everyone: 6:49 PM

No

from N Bennett to everyone: 6:49 PM

no

from ezra to everyone: 6:50 PM

yes

from k to everyone: 6:50 PM

Hold on it's a tie

from silas to everyone: 6:50 PM

you have 4 yes votes

from Bryannah Quander to everyone: 6:51 PM

I'm saying yay/nay as support. I'm not confirmed yet.

from ezra to everyone: 6:51 PM

im not sure yet if I am confirmed or but my name was brought up but I am not from my understanding to answer or vote for SHRC

from k to everyone: 6:52 PM

That's convenient for you all

from k to everyone: 6:56 PM

Lmao andrea are u gonna launch an impeachment procedure on one of the commissioners I'm laughing so hard rn

from ezra to everyone: 6:57 PM

please have side comments of appropriate it is a bit distracting

from Tricia Diamond, PhD to everyone: 6:59 PM

Will this chat also be available? I realize this is being recorded but taking screenshots.

from k to everyone: 7:01 PM

This is clearly just to waste time to avoid talking about sweeps this could have been attached in a pre-meeting email and they could have just asked if there were any questions that makes me kinda sad : (

from ezra to everyone: 7:10 PM

testifying

from k to everyone: 7:17 PM

Reading thru every bylaw one by one seems to be a convenient way to avoid talking about sweeps you all are geniuses!

from k to everyone: 7:21 PM

Agreed!

from ezra to everyone: 7:22 PM

yes rather than fighting each other lets put that energy towards what needs to be addressed. in addition, are we able to give feed backs and provide a time to go through them and address them to ensure that we are moving forward and not re living the same issues?

from ezra to everyone: 7:23 PM

?

from Tricia Diamond, PhD to everyone: 7:24 PM

The man is calling me a LIAR in the text? No one says blip.

from k to everyone: 7:29 PM

I'd like to clarify that I am calling the administrators and the city officials for clearly lying not any commissioners. However, I'm still really disappointed in the way the committee is not making a statement against the violent sweeps our city is conducting

from Tricia Diamond, PhD to everyone: 7:33 PM

Thank you Ezra

from Dr. Howard Gale, SeattleSTOP.org to everyone: 7:35 PM

Yes, Webex provides transcripts for the meeting & for the chat

from Ebony to everyone: 7:36 PM

That was my question too! It's obvious that you all are working through something, so what happens when there are bad actors?

from ezra to everyone: 7:38 PM

sorry if have asked the same question as someone else i dont have a strong connection thank you for letting me ask my question.

from ezra to everyone: 7:41 PM

accountability and holding ourself to standards is what I am trying to speak on

from Tricia Diamond, PhD to everyone: 7:41 PM

Do we need to sign?

from k to everyone: 7:45 PM

This seems really weird

from Tricia Diamond, PhD to everyone: 7:47 PM

Ten minutes on retreat?

from Jo Bechtold to everyone: 7:49 PM

yes me too!

from ezra to everyone: 7:51 PM

thea office space?

from ezra to everyone: 7:51 PM



or the location of the SHRC

from Jo Bechtold to everyone: 7:51 PM

i also prefer in person

from ezra to everyone: 7:54 PM

it was a tie

from k to everyone: 7:55 PM

That sounds reasonable!

from Matthew Mitnick he/him to everyone: 7:55 PM

im totally okay with that

from k to everyone: 7:56 PM

That's on u all!

from Jo Bechtold to everyone: 7:56 PM

yes

from N Bennett to everyone: 7:56 PM

yes

from Matthew Mitnick he/him to everyone: 7:56 PM

Yes

from Bryannah Quander to everyone: 7:56 PM

Yes

from Andrea Dailey to everyone: 7:57 PM

NO

from k to everyone: 7:57 PM

Imao bc time was being taken away from actual conversation to go through every bylaw one by one

from Matthew Mitnick he/him to everyone: 8:04 PM

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/11aay0pAw5wNETHsP0VS7c1Hyi8BzUngA3UFwL9-TIb0/edit?usp=sharing>

from Andrea Dailey to everyone: 8:04 PM

starting time 8:04 PM

from Andrea Dailey to everyone: 8:05 PM

Ending time 8:14 PM

from silas to everyone: 8:08 PM

view

from Matthew Mitnick he/him to everyone: 8:10 PM

THAT the Seattle Human Rights Commission requests a meeting with the Mayor and City Councilmembers who supported the budget allocation to the Unified Care Team to discuss action on this legislation;

from Joy she/her/siya to everyone: 8:16 PM

If I may.....extending this meeting as people who are unhoused living outside and freezing outside....to simply vote and condone sweeps is the least you can do.

from ezra to everyone: 8:17 PM

very true

from ezra to everyone: 8:17 PM

Tk

# Seattle Human Rights Commission Minutes

Thursday, January 5, 2023, 6:00–8:00 p.m.

[WebEx](#) and in person at Seattle City Hall 600 4th Avenue, Seattle, WA 98104,  
Bertha Knight Landes Room

**Facilitator:** T. Diamond

**Notetaker:** J. Bechtold

**Timekeeper:** V. Lakshmanan

(March meeting: M. Mitnick)

(backup B. Quander)

**Commissioners Present:** B. Quander, C. Alvarado\*, E. Alem\*, M. Mitnick, T. Diamond, V. Lakshmanan\*

\* Un-Confirmed Commissioners

**Commissioners Absent:** A. Dailey (on approved leave), J. Abdullah, J. Bechtold,

**Seattle Office of Civil Rights Attendee(s):** M. Stone, Civil Rights Advisory Commissions Manager, M. Stone, Commissions Manager

## Agenda

Time	Topic	Presenter
6:00-6:05	<p><b>Call to Order</b></p> <p>Commissioner Diamond called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.</p> <p>Commissioner C. Alvarado joined the meeting at 6:13pm</p> <p>Commissioner E. Alem joined meeting at 6:37pm</p>	T. Diamond
6:05-6:21	<p><b>Public Comment</b></p> <p>The following community members shared comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Megan Murphy</li> <li>• Jacob</li> <li>• Dr. Howard J. Gale</li> </ul>	T. Diamond
6:21-6:25	<p><b><u>Approval of November and December Minutes</u></b></p> <p><i>A motion was made by Commissioner Quander and seconded by Commissioner Mitnick to table the approval of the November 2022 and December 2022 minutes until the February 02, 2023, meeting. Motion passed unanimously.</i></p>	T. Diamond
<b>Subcommittee updates</b>		
6:25-6:40	The Ad-hoc retreat planning committee is currently confirming the availability of a facilitator, as well as seeking out alternates.	Relevant committee members
<b>Old Business</b>		
6:40-6:55	<p><b><u>Opposition to Sweeps Resolution</u></b></p> <p><i>A motion was made by Commissioner Mitnick and seconded by</i></p>	M. Mitnick

	<p><i>Commissioner Quander to approve the resolution. Motion passed unanimously.</i></p> <p><b><u>Dignified Public Infrastructure Resolution</u></b>  <i>A motion was made by Commissioner Mitnick and seconded by Commissioner Quander to table this discussion until the February 04, 2023, retreat. Motion passed unanimously.</i></p>	
<b>New Business</b>		
6:55-7:15	<p><b>Review of Seattle Ethics Code, Chapter 4.16 of the Seattle Municipal Code:</b> Commissioner Diamond presented information on 4.16.070 and 4.16.075.</p> <p><b>Review of Former Commissioners' Resignation Letter:</b>  Commissioners posed questions regarding a previous resignation letter. Commissions Manager Stone will accept any questions/concerns and will bring back clarification at the February 2023 retreat.</p> <p><i>A motion was made by Commissioner Mitnick and seconded by Commissioner Quander to add an agenda item to the Feb. retreat specifically how threatening behavior is being addressed by the City of Seattle. Motion passed unanimously.</i></p>	T. Diamond
7:15-7:20	<b>Seattle Office of Civil Rights Update:</b> No updates provided.	M. Stone
7:20-7:25	<b>Announcements:</b> The February 02, 2023, regular meeting will remain as is. Reminders were given about the upcoming annual retreat along with co-chair elections. An acknowledgement was made about the resignation of ex-commissioner Bennett.	T. Diamond, M. Stone
7:25-7:55	<b>Executive Session:</b> Executive session was not held.	
<b>ADJOURNMENT</b> Meeting was adjourned at 7:58 p.m.		
Minutes recorded by Commissioner Quander		

**Seattle Human Rights Commission**

Thursday, January 04, 2023, 6:00–8:00 p.m.

**PUBLIC COMMENT SIGN-UP SHEET**

- Each person delivering public comment has 1-2 minutes of speaking time, depending on the number of public participants.
- Total time for public comment will not exceed 16 minutes.
- Public comment will not be entertained outside of the time dedicated to public comment.

#	Name	Virtual	In Person
1.	Megan Murphy		X
2.	Jacob	X	
3.	Dr. Howard J. Gale	X	
4.			
5.			
6.			
7.			
8.			
9.			
10.			

\*This sign-up sheet is a public record.

# Draft Election Procedures

## Seattle Human Rights Commission

### **Purpose**

The purpose of this procedure is to establish a clear and consistent process for holding commission elections.

### **Elected Positions**

The following positions shall be elected to serve as part of the Executive Committee:

- Administrative Co-Chair
- Communications Co-Chair
- Five Commissions Co-Chair
- Appeals Chair
- Secretary/Treasurer

### **Meeting Protocol**

Elections shall be conducted once per year during the November or December regular meeting as the first order of business. Electeds may serve up to two (2) consecutive, one-year terms beginning in January of the subsequent year. If for any reason new committee members are not elected, existing members shall continue to serve until an election is held. The staff liaison or commissions manager will conduct elections.

### **Nominations**

Nominations may be made as a self-nomination, or by nominating any other confirmed commissioner. Nominations may be made during a regular or special meeting, as well as via email. Nominations for a position are accepted until the start of voting for that position. No one commissioner may nominate more than one (1) person for a given position until every member wishing to nominate a candidate has had an opportunity to do so. Nominations do not require a second.

### **Voting**

Once the staff liaison or commissions manager has confirmed there are no further nominations, the nomination period will be declared closed. A motion to close the nominations is not necessary. Nominees may make a statement regarding their interest in a position if they so choose. Statements shall be limited to five (5) minutes each. Once all statements have been given, the voting process will begin.

- Only affirmative votes shall be made via a roll-call vote.

- As soon as one of the nominees receives a simple majority vote, the staff liaison or commissions manager will declare the nominee elected. No votes will be taken on the remaining nominees.
- A tie vote results in a failed nomination.
- If none of the nominees receives a simple majority vote, the staff liaison or commissions manager will call for nominations again and repeat the process until a single nominee receives a majority vote.

## Vacancies

If a position is vacated, the position may be promptly filled during a regular or special meeting using these election procedures.

---

## Bylaws

Current:

[SHRC Bylaws Adopted 2019-3](#) Article 4, Section 1: "The Commission shall by a simple majority vote of Commissioners present elect up to three Co-Chairs, a Secretary, and an Appeals Chair. The vote shall be public and tallied by a Co-Chair. These officers shall compose the Executive Committee. Any Commissioner can nominate another Commissioner or themselves for an officer position. Nominations may be taken from the floor at the time of the election. The Executive Committee shall also be responsible for the duties outlined in Article II Section 2."

Proposed Changes:

The Executive Committee consisting of three (3) Co-Chairs, an Appeals Chair, and a Secretary shall be elected annually. Committee members may serve up to two (2) consecutive, one-year terms. The Executive Committee shall be responsible for the duties outlined in Article II, Section 2. Elections shall be held according to the Commission's Protocol and Procedures manual/guide.

Justification:

Procedures do not need to be restated in the bylaws if we have a procedural manual/guide. The current bylaws also do not include the full election procedures.

Title: **DIGNIFIED PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE FOR SEATTLE**

Sponsored by: Commissioner Mitnick, Commissioner Abdullah, Commissioner Bechtold, Commissioner Quander

WHEREAS, in 2019, the Seattle City Council agreed to spend \$1.3 million on Mobile Pit Stops, restrooms with running water;<sup>1</sup>

WHEREAS, the Mobile Pit Stops never came into fruition;<sup>2</sup>

WHEREAS, Seattle Public Utilities confirmed in June 2021 during a heatwave that only 20% of drinking fountains in parks were functional at the time;<sup>3</sup>

WHEREAS, on September 28, 2022, funding was secured through the metropolitan parks levy to upgrade half of the City's 26 community centers to be climate resilience hubs;

WHEREAS, 350 Seattle's community endorsement letter urged Mayor Harrell and Seattle City Councilmembers to: "upgrade Seattle's community centers for climate resilience and clean energy including: installing rooftop solar microgrids, electric heat pumps, and HVAC system upgrades all in the same building, ensure that investments go to communities most impacted by heat waves, pollution, displacement and other environmental injustices first, use a Project Labor Agreement so the jobs go to local unions and a Seattle Community Workforce Agreement to ensure training opportunities through state registered apprenticeships and priority local hire for neighborhood residents, [and] leverage as many state and federal dollars as you can to stretch our investment and ensure we can fully upgrade every Seattle community center before 2035;"<sup>4</sup>

WHEREAS, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees states that there should be one communal restroom per 50 individuals;<sup>5</sup>

WHEREAS, the City of Seattle estimates there are 224 public restrooms in its 489 parks;<sup>6</sup>

WHEREAS, there is no data currently available as to how many accessible drinking fountains exist in public spaces;

WHEREAS, Erica Barnett from Publicola News reported that more than 60 of these supposedly "open" public restrooms are closed, portable toilets known as "sanicans" exist in limited numbers, and many existing public restrooms are not properly maintained to ensure healthy use;<sup>7</sup>

WHEREAS, the recent Seattle Parks District six-year levy allocated an estimated \$2.2 million for improving restroom access in City parks;

---

<sup>1</sup><https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/why-is-it-so-hard-to-find-a-bathroom-in-seattle/#comments>

<sup>2</sup>ibid.

<sup>3</sup><https://twitter.com/SeattleParks/status/1407778175069786113?s=20>

<sup>4</sup>[https://docs.google.com/document/d/18Qn2qd5og9Q7T6Jvkhem10UYUUKkdfubkUJpCjX\\_U4/edit](https://docs.google.com/document/d/18Qn2qd5og9Q7T6Jvkhem10UYUUKkdfubkUJpCjX_U4/edit)

<sup>5</sup><https://www.unhcr.org/en-us/water-sanitation-and-hygiene.html>

<sup>6</sup><https://www.seattle.gov/human-services/reports-and-data/addressing-homelessness>

<sup>7</sup><https://publicola.com/2021/01/20/public-restroom-closures-coincide-with-shigella-outbreak-among-seattles-homeless/>



WHEREAS, a lack of public restrooms and drinking fountains disproportionately harms residents experiencing homelessness;

WHEREAS, Seattle Public Utilities offer limited safe disposal sites for syringes, needles, and lancets;<sup>8</sup>

WHEREAS, the Seattle Human Rights Commission administers the Seattle Civil Rights Ordinances per SHRR 40-055 to advocate for justice and equal opportunity, to advise the City of Seattle on human rights issues, and to collaborate with public and private sectors in order to educate them on methods to prevent and eliminate discrimination city-wide;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SEATTLE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION:

THAT the lack of safe, accessible, and plentiful public restrooms, drinking fountains, and safe disposal boxes represent both a human rights and public health crisis;

THAT the Seattle Human Rights Commission condemns previous attempts from City officials to close off access to these basic human needs, recognizing that these are policy decisions meant to harm and subjugate our unhoused neighbors;

THAT the Seattle Human Rights Commission supports the ongoing efforts from 350 Seattle and partner organizations to create and maintain climate resilience hubs that offer access to public restrooms and drinking fountains among other basic human needs;

THAT the Seattle Human Rights Commission thank the community members who advocated to include public restrooms in Seattle parks through the recently passed six-year parks levy;

THAT the Seattle Human Rights Commission requests an audit from Human Services that specifically delineates how many of the pre-existing public restrooms are currently open, are properly maintained, and can be safely used, going beyond current dashboards that appear to be outdated and not regularly updated;

THAT the Seattle Human Rights Commission calls for all public restrooms to have 24/7 access, with adequate maintenance and sanitation scheduling, including new restrooms funded in the six-year parks levy;

THAT the Seattle Human Rights Commission recognizes that the City of Seattle does not have an adequate number of drinking fountains;

THAT the Seattle Human Rights Commission requests for the Mayor's Data and Policy Strategic Advisor to estimate what it would cost to fund public restrooms, drinking fountains, and safe disposal boxes at a quantity in line with estimates from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees;

---

<sup>8</sup><https://www.seattle.gov/utilities/protecting-our-environment/safe-and-clean-seattle/sharps-collection>

THAT the Seattle Human Rights Commission calls for the Seattle City Council to add a line item amendment to the general fund that will fund 24/7 operations of current public restroom facilities and the construction of new 24/7 restroom facilities and drinking fountains in public spaces that include, but are not solely limited to parks;

THAT the Seattle Human Rights Commission requests for all new public restrooms mentioned in the above clause to consist of single occupancy gender neutral restrooms;

THAT the Seattle Human Rights Commission calls for the Seattle City Council to add a line item amendment to the Seattle Public Utilities budget that will fund safe disposal boxes for needles, syringes, and lancets in all of Seattle's 489 parks;

THAT the Seattle Human Rights Commission recognizes how public restrooms and drinking fountains will encourage residents and visitors to spend more time in public spaces, improve participation in local events, and create newfound accessibility;

THAT the Seattle Human Rights Commission calls for the City of Seattle to remove bars from existing public benches and/or seating;

THAT the Seattle Human Rights Commission requests an audit from the Seattle Department of Transportation that delineates high trafficked areas for walking and rolling connections;

THAT the Seattle Human Rights Commission supports the addition of public benches and/or seating in the locations that would be identified above;

THAT upon passage, this legislation be forwarded to the Seattle City Council and Mayor's Office, with strong recommendation for the Seattle City Council to take immediate fiscal action.