



City of Seattle

Seattle Planning Commission

Xio Alvarez and Nick Whipple, Co-Chairs
Vanessa Murdock, Executive Director

SEATTLE PLANNING COMMISSION

Thursday, July 23, 2026
Approved Meeting Minutes

Commissioners Present: Xio Alvarez, McCaela Daffern, Andrew Dannenberg, Amir Ehsaei, Dylan Glosecki, Hailey Karcher, Rose Lew Tsai-Le Whitson, Dhyana Quintanar, T.J. Stutman, Margaret Szeles, Patrick Taylor

Commissioners Absent: Cecelia Black, Rebecca Brunn, Dylan Stevenson, Kelabe Tewolde, Nick Whipple

Commission Staff: Vanessa Murdock, Executive Director; John Hoey, Senior Policy Analyst; Robin Magonegil, Commission Coordinator

Seattle Planning Commission meeting minutes are not an exact transcript and represent key points and the basis of discussion.

Chair's Report & Minutes Approval

Co-Chair Xio Alvarez called the meeting to order at 7:47 am. Co-Chair Alvarez offered the following land acknowledgement:

'As we begin our meeting, we respectfully acknowledge that our meeting today is taking place on occupied Coast Salish land. We pay respect to Coast Salish Elders past and present and extend that respect to their descendants and to all Indigenous people. To acknowledge this land is to recognize the history of physical and cultural genocide and settler colonialism, which continues to displace Indigenous people today. It is to also recognize these lands, waters, and their significance for the resilient and wise peoples who continue to thrive in this region despite the consequences of displacement and broken treaties. Those who hold settler privilege in this city must work towards supporting the Coast Salish people and all Indigenous people using the various forms of wealth and privilege they reap due to it.'

Co-Chair Alvarez noted that this meeting is a hybrid meeting with some Commissioners and staff participating remotely while other Commissioners and staff participating in the Boards and Commissions Room at Seattle City Hall. Alvarez asked fellow Commissioners to review the Color Brave Space norms and asked for volunteers to select one or more of the norms to read aloud. They suggested to Commissioners that they collectively agree to abide by these norms.

Announcements

Vanessa Murdock, Seattle Planning Commission Executive Director, announced several upcoming Commission meetings and reviewed the format of this meeting.

ACTION: Commissioner T.J. Stutman moved to approve the July 9, 2026, meeting minutes. Commissioner McCaela Daffern seconded the motion. The motion to approve the minutes passed.

Public Comment

Ms. Murdock noted that public comment may be provided in person at City Hall, submitted in writing via email at least eight hours before the meeting, or offered on the hybrid meeting platform MS Teams. Public comment must be able to be given in two minutes or less.

There was no public comment.

Briefing: Neighborhood Snapshots and Additional Neighborhood Data Resources

Diana Canzoneri, Phillip Carnell, and Megan Rose - Office of Planning and Community Development (OPCD) Data Team

Ms. Canzoneri provided an overview of the work of the OPCD Data Team.

- Disseminate planning and demographic data to support community engagement and inform City efforts
- Produce analysis and mapping to:
 - Enhance understanding of community conditions and trends
 - Monitor progress toward outcomes envisioned in the City's Comprehensive Plan
- Provide consultation to colleagues and help facilitate interdepartmental data collection
- Staff interjurisdictional advisory groups

Ms. Canzoneri noted her team would cover a number of tools and resources available to provide neighborhood-level data and noted all of the tools shared are available on OPCD's Population and Demographics website.

Ms. Rose provided an overview of the new Neighborhood Snapshots which were developed in partnership with the Office of Immigrant and Refugee Affairs and the Department of Neighborhoods in response to a City Council Statement of Legislative Intent. She noted the snapshots cover each of the 53 Community Reporting Areas (CRA) as well as each of the 7 City Council districts. Ms. Rose stated the purpose of the snapshots is to provide commonly requested information about the population and demographic characteristics in each area. The snapshots enable users to explore data, compare trends, and take action to shape decisions and build better outcomes.

Ms. Rose then covered the three different ways to use the snapshots through the different formats their team made available. There are graphic-rich PDFs of each snapshot, which are only a couple of pages and easily printed. There is also an accessible version for each snapshot, which is designed to be used with a screen reader and includes detailed descriptive text for all visuals. Finally, there is an interactive map viewer tool that allows users to dig into the data directly and compare different neighborhoods and CRAs.

Ms. Rose next provided some insights into the snapshots collectively. She noted that housing tenure (whether a household rents or owns their home) varies sharply across neighborhoods, with neighborhoods such as Pioneer Square and First Hill hovering around 90% renter households while

neighborhoods such as Arbor Heights have only 11% renter households. The Seattle average is 56% renter households. She also touched on other topics such as neighborhood rate of growth from 2010 to 2025 and how language access needs vary geographically.

Ms. Rose then walked commissioners through a brief mini-Jeopardy game using fun facts about various neighborhoods across Seattle.

Ms. Canzoneri next introduced other neighborhood-level tools and resources that the data team maintains.

The first was the Neighborhood Profile Builder which uses American Community Survey (ACS) data for neighborhoods and covers the following topics:

- Basic Demographics
- Race & Ethnicity
- Languages & English Ability
- Households
- Living Arrangements
- Income & Occupations
- Poverty and Employment Status
- Housing Tenure & Costs
- Education
- Disabilities and Health Insurance
- Housing Characteristics

The next tool Ms. Canzoneri shared was the Exploring the Patterns of People tool. The tool also uses ACS data but covers census tracts for the whole Puget Sound Region. Users can explore a variety of topics and easily compare topics across census tracts.

Ms. Canzoneri shared some interesting facts about population changes in Seattle pulled from a series of presentations using the 2010 and 2020 Census data. For example, she noted that from 2010 to 2020, the population of adults of color in Seattle grew by 52% but the population of children of color only grew by 22.8%.

The next tool Ms. Canzoneri covered was the Neighborhood Change webpage, which provides historical and regional context on neighborhood change through charts and maps for the CRAs within Seattle.

Next, Phillip Carnell shared the two main tools the data team maintains for monitoring and addressing displacement risk. The first is the Displacement Risk Dashboard which relies on regular updates to spot changes in a series of individual indicators. The second is the Displacement Risk Index which consolidates many indicators into one index and provides a long-range view that can be used to inform long-range plans and investments.

Ms. Canzoneri then introduced the Racial and Social Equity (RSE) Index. The RSE Index provides departments with a common set of data identifying where priority populations make up a relatively large share of neighborhood residents. The RSE Index combines data on race, English language learner status, origins, socioeconomic disadvantage, and health disadvantage. Ms. Canzoneri shared that the

tool has been used by many departments to inform program design, prioritization of investments, and long-term plans.

Ms. Canzoneri then provided commissioners with a preview of future work the data team will undertake related to comprehensive plan monitoring. The One Seattle Plan includes a plan to monitor indicators that can show whether the City is on track to achieve outcomes envisioned by the Plan. The monitoring covers all elements with a particular focus on the Growth Strategy and Housing elements. The work will build on the Equitable Development Monitoring Program that started in 2020 and will continue to gauge progress toward eliminating disparities in outcomes by race, income, and neighborhood. Ms. Canzoneri shared that OPCD will begin a process that enables community stakeholders to shape the monitoring program and will include collaboration with other departments across the City that already do monitoring work.

Commission Discussion

- Commissioners offered kudos and appreciation to the OPCD Data Team for producing such a comprehensive number of highly useful data-based tools *along* with helpful analysis with only a small team. Commissioners noted many of these tools to be helpful in their daily work as well as that of the City and appreciate the opportunity to learn about so many tools in one place that they might not otherwise be aware of.
- Commissioners expressed appreciation for the efforts of the team to make their data tools accessible to users with a variety of abilities and for providing an example of how others can also make their data tools more accessible.
- Commissioners asked why transportation costs by household was not included in the neighborhood-level tools. Ms. Canzoneri responded that the main data source for these tools is ACS data which does not include transportation costs and instead focuses on housing data. She noted some of the other ways they could get at the transportation data. Commissioners encouraged the data team to include transportation costs where possible as they can show access to opportunity and illuminate the balance of housing costs compared to transportation costs that households must navigate when deciding where to live.
- Commissioners asked which indicators were the most actionable in helping prioritize planning efforts across neighborhoods. Ms. Canzoneri responded that the [Racial and Social Equity Composite Index Current | City of Seattle Open Data portal](#) has been the most actionable and used by many different teams across the city. It was designed to be flexible and has served as a starting point for data analysis that can be combined with other layers of data such as programmatic information and specific demographic information to inform project and program design.
- Commissioners again expressed appreciation for the work of the data team and asked how the team worked with other OPCD staff to provide data to support the selection of the new neighborhood centers included in the Comprehensive Plan. Phillip Carnell responded that OPCD staff considered factors such as the presence of existing frequent transit intersections, resilient commercial properties with thriving small businesses, as well as areas with room for growth within existing commercial zones. They worked with partners at King County Metro for some of the transit stop data. They also looked at details such as how many existing amenities were present. Beyond these details that the data team helped to provide, there were also layers of political discussions

and choices by decision-makers such as the Mayor's office and City Council that influenced the final selection of Neighborhood Centers.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 am.

Resources

[Population & Demographics – Office of Planning and Community Development Website](#)

[Neighborhood Snapshots – Office of Planning and Community Development Website](#)