

Seattle Women's Commission Meeting Minutes

Monday, May 18, 2026 at 5:30 p.m.

Hosted in person at Seattle City Hall and online via Webex.

Call to Order

- Meeting start time: 5:35 p.m.
- Present: E. Rose Barr, A. DeFisher, N. Ghazanfari, H. Glover, N. Goforth, E. Han, S. Hitchcock, G. Martin, J. Tran, T. Mills, T. Owens, W. Nakamura, K. Faoro Wright, M. Idowu, J. Stafford, M. Stone,
- Guests: Kelsey Mesher with the Mayor's Office, T. Yasu
- Absent: S. Brown, N. Evanoff, K. Guerrero, S. Miles, T. Ogunnoiki, L. Perez
- Late arrival: N. Tola

Land & Labor Acknowledgement

Previous Meeting Minutes Approval

Emily made the motion to approve. Jennifer seconded. The motion passes by vote.

Current Meeting Agenda Approval

Emily made the motion to approve. Kate seconded.

Public Comment

None.

Items of Business

1. Speaker: Kelsey Mesher, Deputy Chief of Staff for the Mayor's Office

- Who is the correct contact for what? Kelsey is a contact for co-chairs to make requests for the Office of the Mayor directly. Marta is a contact for Departmental coordination.
- Mayoral priorities:

- i. Affordability agenda: How do we make Seattle a place where people of all incomes can make a living and have options to thrive? Making childcare and aftercare more accessible. Renter protections. Building more housing and a greater variety of housing. Municipal grocery stores. Gender equity issues in the transportation space.
- ii. Community safety: Welcoming ideas in this space. Women and transit issues (timing, light, waiting).
- iii. Shelter: Interdepartmental lift. Have identified close to \$20M in shelter resources for this year. \$3M has been committed through Challenge Seattle (philanthropic). Advancing three different pieces of policy: allowing the City to sign agreements directly with property owners; allocate funds from and with approval by City Council; allowing shelter sites to hold more sites on them (increase from 100 to 150). Community engagement and gathering have occurred. Mayor made a commitment to 4,000 units of shelter.
 - 1. Question from Commissioner DeFisher: Curious about efforts being made specifically to ensure the safety of women in shelters and the cross section of victims of domestic violence who require a higher threshold for safety. Kelsey welcomes the data from the Gender-based Violence Subcommittee's work to help forward that agenda.
 - 2. Question from Commissioner Nakamura: Where and how can local Seattle residents find communication around expectations for the FIFA World Cup and the knock on effects to residents living in a host city? The Mayor's Office has put together some webinars around the topic of safety during FIFA and will share those resources. Kelsey will connect with SWC for additional resources after the meeting.
 - 3. Question from Commissioner Barr: A request to share information about the municipal grocery store concept. The Mayor's Office is seeking to offer more affordable options in this space.

4. Question from Commissioner Treweek: How do mayors learn from other mayors? Referencing Mayor Mamdani's progress in New York City. Mayor Wilson attended a conference of mayors and participated in the Bloomberg-funded network of progressive cities.
5. Question from Commissioner Barr: What are the Mayor's goals around affordable childcare? Family Education Preschool Anonymous Levy passed last fall will provide a new infusion of funding. Some may help expand new preschool funding and childcare. Partnerships with the county and state are also needed.

2. Subcommittee Updates

- Government Relations
 - i. "Government Relations" is the name of the subcommittee.
 - ii. Meeting day/time TBD; likely the first Monday of the month at 5:30pm or 6:00pm.
 - iii. Government Relations Strategy document will equip SWC with the tools, resources, and structure needed for targeted engagement, clear roles, and efficient use of time and influence.
- Communications
 - i. Krystal and Whitney are terming off soon. Whitney proposes that each subcommittee identifies a communications lead that can be trained on resources before that happens.
- Gender-based Violence
 - i. The call for resignation of the King County Assessor campaign was successful. *Seattle Times* Op Ed had large reach + several Councilmembers joined the call on social for resignation + King County Assessors pulled up an action stating him unfit for the role. The survivor reached out and thanked SWC for speaking out. There is now a matrix that outlines how the Subcommittee would approach this kind of action moving forward.
 - ii. City-wide Domestic Violence Impact Report is the next priority. Research is a big part of the first phase of the project. Will build a pilot project in District 4 given the inclusion of the UW campus.
- Housing Stability
 - i. It is Affordable Housing Week! Anyone can attend and benefit from these events. [Links will be provided](#) with more information. There are also virtual events you can attend.

- ii. Jennifer created a "Letter of Support" template for organizations and actions in this space. This can act as a great template for other committees as well.
- Women's Health & Wellness
 - i. King County Clinic was successful with multiple SWC Commissioners volunteering. Consider leveraging the "Letter of Support" template to call for local government and representatives to support King County Clinic.

3. Budget Review

Voting will occur in June. Funds will expire at the end of 2026. We have \$2,000 annually on a use-it-or-lose-it basis. We have \$1,850 remaining.

- Government Relations: no request at this time, but one may develop after their early June meeting.
- Gender-based Violence: \$150 requested.
- Housing Stability: \$100 requested.
- Women's Health & Wellness: \$500-\$700 requested.
- Jeanette Williams Award and celebration (2026): anticipating needing funds for this as a biannual award; spending range varies over the years.

4. Co-chair Updates

- Talley: Are people using the time tracking template? Folks can copy to their own Drive. It is not required, but is helpful to track how many volunteer hours are being invested towards initiatives over the year.
 - i. Toggle can be used to help register hours, then entered into the tracking template.
- Emily on reappointments:
 - i. Hannah will be terming off to attend an RN + DNP program at Seattle University. Anyone up for reappointment can reach out to the Co-chairs or Marta.
 - ii. If anyone has heard from Commissioner Miles, reach out to Emily.
 - iii. Check your inbox for a celebration at the end of the summer for Councilmembers terming off.
 - iv. Encourage people to apply when we are promoting recruitment. Recruitment materials will be made available.
- Emily on speakers: We will take nominations on SWC Committee Meeting speakers next meeting.

Seattle Women's Commission
Regular Meeting
May 18, 2026

Seattle Office for Civil Rights Updates

a. Marta:

- Get Engaged interviews are occurring June 15-17th. Co-chairs will review resumes for the two candidates.
- Parking permits: Ask Meredith if you need the application and did not receive the information in your email. These are required to park for in person meetings.

Schedule of Upcoming Meetings and Events

5/15/2026 to 5/22/2026 Affordable Housing Week

6/1/2026 Pride Flag Raising

Adjourned