

# Seattle Disability Commission Meeting Minutes

Thursday, July 17, 2025 | 4:00 – 6:00 PM

**Location:** Hybrid—Zoom and in person location at City Hall, 600 4th Ave Room 370, Seattle, WA 98104.

## Attendance

- **Commissioners Present:** JJ Jensen (Co-Chair), Bianca Gallegos (Co-Chair), Samiya Nasim, Shelby Dey
- Commissioners Absent: Kaitlin Skilton
- **Nominated Commissioners:** Scot Nelson, Sawyer Stearns
- Quorum Met

## 4:03 pm – call to order

- Interaction Agreements & Universal Design Reminders – Led by Bianca and JJ
- **Welcome to Nominated Commissioners** – Sawyer and Scot introduced themselves
- OCR Staff Introductions – Led by Janet
- **Public Comment:** Mike (he/him) did not share comments at this time but shared later during the Disability Candidate Forum Recap

## 4:20 pm – Co-chair updates

### Disability Candidate Forum Recap:

- Districts 2, 8, and 9 participated.
- Forum focused on disability community priorities and candidate commitments
- Commission will explore how to track candidate accountability
- Mike (he/him [mike@waca.com](mailto:mike@waca.com)) shared reflections from the Disability Candidate Forum. He noted several candidates made public commitments around disability-related legislation (e.g., free caregiver admission, payroll support for disabled individuals). He offered to support follow-up and accountability efforts.

## **Meeting with Councilmember Saka:**

Topics included sidewalk expansion, car charging stations, and a wheelchair charging station (which he was previously unaware of but open to supporting)

## **Letters Sent:**

- Washington Talking Book & Braille Library:
- Letter sent to Secretary of State and state representatives regarding staff layoffs due to budget cuts impacting statewide services
- FIFA World Cup:
- Letter sent advocating for Commission involvement in accessibility planning and employment opportunities for people with disabilities.
- Discussed with Councilmember Saka.
- SDC is collaborating with other commissions; they have not met since June and are awaiting a response on next steps.
- Democracy Voucher Prop 1 Endorsement:
  - Program provides **four \$25 vouchers** per resident during municipal election cycles to contribute toward publicly funded campaigns
  - Seattle Prop 1 would renew funding for ten more years via a property tax, extending the public financing mechanism.
  - SDC co-chairs endorsed Prop 1 in collaboration with LGBTQ, Women's, and Human Rights Commissions.

## **4:35 pm – recruitment updates**

### **Meeting with OCR Communications:**

Bianca, Scot, and Sage provided input on flyer and [article for the OCR blog](#)

### **Flyer Distribution Summary:**

- Shared with 27 Seattle Public Libraries, 37 Parks & Recreation sites, 77 Customer Service Centers
- Outreach with City Departments (e.g., Office of Immigrant & Refugee Affairs, P-Patch Program)
- Community engagement included visits to the Chinese Information Service Center and King County Coalition on Homelessness (which invited the Commission to present at a general meeting)

## **Social Media & Outreach Model:**

- Facebook post made—Scot made a request for a clear process to be outlined for posting guidelines and approvals.
- Scot has created a database to track outreach efforts. Model offers strong foundation for future campaigns

## **4:45 pm – 2025 Budget**

**Current Balance update:** \$1,550 (initial allocation: \$2,000; \$300 spent on retreat, \$150 spent on disability forum co-sponsorship)

**Permitted Uses:** Outreach, swag, trainings, retreats, co-sponsored events

**Note:** All funds must be used by early December. Shelby has led on outreach supply orders in the past and can provide guidance

## **4:55 pm – Human Rights Day Co-Sponsorship**

**Theme:** “Uplifting Seattle Immigrant Communities”

**Date & Time:** Saturday, Dec. 6 | 11 AM – 3 PM | Location TBD

### **Proposed SDC Participation:**

- \$150 contribution
- Tabling (free of charge)
- Presentation (pending final format)
- Promotion
- Speaker representing immigrants with disabilities (if possible)

**Motion:** Co-sponsor event and contribute \$150

- **Motion by:** JJ
- **Seconded by:** Samiya
- **Roll call/Vote Result:** Approved

## **5:10 pm – Miller Play Area**

### **Inclusive Play Area Survey:**

- Shared by Scot – opportunity for community input on inclusive playground design.
- [Link to the Advocacy Survey](#)

**Garfield Community Center:** Charging station installation ready

**Upcoming Event:**

- Parks & Recreation accessible boating event at Mt. Baker Rowing.
- RSVP at [Arcsea.com](http://Arcsea.com)

**5:20 pm – OCR Updates**

**Interviews:**

Three new applications were received. Bianca participated in interviews. Sawyer is moving forward in nomination process. Scot’s paperwork is in progress

**Resource Page:**

Commissioners encouraged to review onboarding and commission resources:

[SOCR Advisory Commission Site](#)

**RSJ Foundation Training:**

Virtual on July 23, co-led by Sebastian.

**Badges & Business Cards:**

Available upon request via Janet

**Website Updates:**

In progress to reflect new and outgoing commissioners

**5:30 pm – End-of-Year Retreat**

**Proposed Date:** Thursday, Nov. 20 | 4–8 PM (Virtual)

**Availability Notes:**

- Thursday evenings preferred by most commissioners
- Samiya is not available in December. To participate, needs the retreat to before November 10.
- Facilitator availability needs to be confirmed. *Follow up action required.*

**Retreat Topics Brainstorm:**

- **Mental Health:** October is Mental Health Awareness Month. NAAMI Washington and NAAMI Westside potential partners to speak to commission as guests. Samiya and JJ both have connections and interest. *Follow up action required.*
- **SDC Committees:** State, structure, and role of committees (transportation, employment, advocacy)

- **Sunflower Lanyards** (transportation): Continued outreach and education using Sunflower Lanyards + QR code training video

### **5:45 pm – Approvals**

Motion to Approve May 15 & July 2 minutes

- **Motion by:** JJ, **seconded by:** Bianca, **Vote Result passed:** Unanimous approval

### **5:49 pm – Adjournment**

**Next Meeting:** Thursday, August 21, 2025