



Seattle Disability Commission Meeting Minutes

September 18, 2025

Call to Order

- **Meeting start time:** 4:05p.m.
- **Present:** Co-Chair JJ Jensen, Co-Chair Bianca Gallegos, Shelby Dey, Scot Nelson, Charlie Nguyen (Quorum met)
- **Nominated commissioners present:** Sawyer Stearns, Zachary Dar, Linda Finkle, Julia Thompson, Naomi Snow, Marc Cote, Elliott McMurray, Balvina Cortez, Dan Ramier
- **Absent:** Kaitlin Skilton, Samiya Nasim
- **“We believe in a world where disability is celebrated as an integral part of human diversity, inclusivity, and equity.” - Stanford Medicine Alliance for Disability Inclusion and Equity (SMADIE)**
- **Interaction Agreements**
- **Universal Design protocols**
- **Welcome newly nominated commissioners:** Julia Thompson, Naomi Snow, Marc Cote, Elliott McMurray, Balvina Cortez, Dan Ramier
- **OCR staff:** Janet and Sebastian

Public Comment

- David DeMario: retired nurse, speak to commission. Veteran community work together durable medical equipment service animals WDDA as long as no problems.
- Brendan Kennedy, Behavioral Health Advocate at the Office of Behavioral Health Advocacy. brendan@obhadvocacy.org

Items of Business

July & August minutes

- Review and approve August minutes (loss of quorum at end of August meeting)
- Review and approve July 2025 minutes
Motion made, second - Unanimous approval to vote August and July minutes

FIFA; Guest Hedda McLendon

- [Seattle FIFA World Cup 2026](#) followed by Q&A

Co-chair Updates

- Upcoming guest speakers
 - NAMI and Office of Behavioral Advocacy (OBHA)
- Comprehensive Plan Collaboration with OCR Commissions
- Motion to join letter to support passing the Comprehensive Plan that prioritizes housing affordability and accessibility” - Motion second, Passed unanimously

Event/Meeting Updates

- Waterfront Park Accessibility Tour Recap – Scot and Charlie in attendance
- Reminder: 12th Annual Expo Fair on Sept 21 from 1-5p Tukwila (Scot & Sawyer attending)
- 2025 Energy, Utility & Resource Summit – Oct 30 from 9-2:30p
 - Tabling event, volunteers needed at Museum of Flight: Scott, Biana and Elliot (if transportation available)
Motion SDC to participate and table at the Expo Resource Fair & the Energy, Utility and Resource Summit and 12th

Annual Exp Resource Fair on 9/21 - *Vote Passed with unanimous consent*

Seattle Office for Civil Rights Updates

- Commission Budget: \$2,000 for retreat, events, cosponsor. \$1,400 balance to use by December.
 - ✓ Volunteers to brainstorm how to spend this money. Zach, Bianca, Julia and JJ will meet with Janet to present at next meeting.
- Policy Priorities Presentation reminder– Oct 7, 5:30-6:30 virtual
- Save the date: Commissions Annual Roundtable – Oct 25 [2025](#)
[SOCR Commission Roundtable - Survey & RSVP](#)

End of Year Retreat Planning

- Confirm Retreat Logistics: Nov 20 from 4-8pm Virtual
 - Motion to confirm Nov 20 annual retreat. Vote passes – unanimous consent
- Brainstorm Retreat Goals: Input from commissioners on topics of interests
- **Relationships and connecting**
 - Spoon theory: what is our individual and commission real capacity (good days, tough days)
 - Orientation to new commissioners: previous work plan, experience on commission,
- **Structure of Commission**
 - Create committees (related to goals of commission)
 - Timeline: between round table & HR day: coordination with other commissions.
 - Universal Design for commission

- Social media protocols – guidelines --
- City of Seattle Accessibility guidelines
- **Goals/pillars**
 - Mental health
 - Intersectionality of mental health and the unhoused populations
 - Intersectionality mental health and veterans
 - Transportation and lanyard (sunflower)
 - Recreation and accessibility and sports for mental and physical health, and FUN. consider different spaces, are they meeting needs of all people living disabilities

Closing Comments & Adjourned

- Every commissioner shared: why are they drawn to be on the disabilities commission.
- Bianca reminded December dates - Dec 18 meeting rescheduled to Dec 4th at 4-6pm
- Bianca adjourns at 5:58pm