



Seattle Disability Commission Meeting Minutes

Thursday, January 15th, 2026 at 4:00 p.m.

Hosted in person at Seattle City Hall and online on Zoom.

Call to Order

- Present: JJ Jensen, Bianca Gallegos, Scot Nelson, Charlie Nguyen, Sawyer Stearns, Zachary Dar, Linda Finkle, Naomi Snow, Marc Cote, Samiya Nasim
- Absent: Julia Thompson, Dan Ramier (nominated), Elliott McMurray, Shelby Dey
- Late arrival: Balvina Cortez

Commissioners: *Quorum is 8 (met)*

Call to Order (4:05-4:15)

Stanford Medicine Alliance for Disability Inclusion and Equity (SMADIE): *“We believe in a world where disability is celebrated as an integral part of human diversity, inclusivity, and equity.”*

Interaction Agreements read.

Universal Design shared: CART, 16 size font, describe appearance if you choose to have your camera on, state your name before you speak, etc.

Roll call/Commissioner intros: Congratulations and Welcoming to Newly Confirmed Commissioners

Welcome OCR Staff & Guest Speakers

Public Comment: none

Approval of Minutes: Discussion and open for edits

- Motion moved by JJ to approve the following minutes; seconded by Scott; followed by unanimous consent
 - Vote passes to approved Minutes: Dec 4th , Nov 12th , and Sept 18th
- Nov 20th retreat minutes – pushed back to Feb meeting for additional revisions
- Oct 16 had no quorum – no need for vote

Co-chair Updates

- Upcoming 5 Chair Meeting
 - Quarterly Co-chairs meeting with other OCR co-chairs on Feb 11; Co-chairs will report back at the next SDC Feb meeting
- SDC Impact Report
 - OCR is asking each commission on 1 -pager snap shot of successes and highlights, workplan impacts, a look at 2026
 - Something to use for outreach to community, elected officials and City departments
 - Volunteers to work with Scott: Zach, Naomi and Linda
- Recap/shoutouts:
 - Commission presence at the annual Boards & Commission Appreciation Reception 12/5 at City Hall

- Human Rights Day Event on 12/6 - SDC tabling
- Please send agenda items to commission distribution list, co-chairs or among committee meetings

Co-chair Nominations & Vote

- JJ's 2-year position ends Jan 2027
- Bianca's interim co-chair ends Jan 2026 - can qualify for 2-year term
- Two current vacancies open for a 2-year term.
- Nominations made for Bianca and Scott to each fill 2-year vacancies, both nominations accepted, remarks made.
- Motion to Nominate Bianca as Co-Chair for a 2-year term through Jan 2028 by JJ; seconded and followed by roll call. Vote passes.
- Motion to Nominate Scot as Co-Chair for a 2-year term through Jan 2028 by Bianca, seconded and followed by roll call. Vote passes.

Break

Universal MaaS Interview Opportunity

Universal MaaS (Mobility as a Service) is an organization that is a collaboration between the university, cities and ANA, a domestic-focused airline in Japan. While Scot is in Japan, he will have the opportunity to meet and answer some interview questions about Disability Access in the context of Japan, and specifically how organizations partner with local cities to promote Disability Access

in a non-ADA environment. Open to sharing about SDC and any questions commissioners might have.

December Retreat Recap

- Review workplan and Committee structure
- Members allocated:
 - Advocacy & Representation
 - Naomi, Sawyer, Samiya
 - Security & Access
 - Linda, Marc, Charlie, Zachary
 - Internal Growth & Development
 - Zachary, Scot, Naomi, Bianca, Sawyer
- Co-chairs will follow with each group to support gathering before the next meeting.
- **Members not present/Follow up needed:** Shelby, Elliott, Balvina, Dan, Julia

Seattle Office for Civil Rights Updates

- Future meetings: Zoom vs Webex – seeking volunteers interested to trail run cart on WebEx to support with audio and visual for future monthly meetings.
 - Volunteers to work with Janet; cart providers, Marc, Scot and Zachary
- Review upcoming [2026 Training Calendar](#)
- Facilitator Update for 2026
 - Elizabeth Ralston, founder of Seattle cultural accessibility consortium - will join us in February

Closing Comments & Reminders:

- **Jan 29:** Legislative Process 101 (virtual training)
 - RSVP details sent by Sebastian on 1/14 email
- **Feb 19:** February SDC Meeting
 - Committee chair nominations will be open

Adjourned at 5:51pm