



City of Seattle
Seattle Renters' Commission

SEATTLE RENTERS' COMMISSION (SRC) MEETING MINUTES

March 4, 2026

6:00 - 8:00pm

Webex Meeting and Seattle City Hall Room 370

Purpose: The Seattle Renters' Commission (SRC) was established to represent the interest of renters located in Seattle, to advise and make recommendations to the Mayor and City Council on public policy matters of importance to renters citywide.

Commissioners in attendance: Kate Rubin, Kasey Burton, Allan Francis, Sam Wolfson, Lydia Felty, Andrew Ashiofu, Julissa Sanchez, Liz Fite, Agni Bhattacharya, Daniel Lugo, Karen Taylor

Commissioners not in attendance: Angela O'Brien, Adora Blue

City Staff in attendance: Laura Jenkins from Seattle Department of Neighborhoods

Quorum: Yes

Public Comment: No

Transcriber's note: These minutes provide a summary of key points discussed. A full recording is available upon request.

Welcome

Meeting opened at 6:00pm with a roll call of commissioners present and land and labor acknowledgments.

Approval of the Agenda (3/4); Approval of the Minutes (2/4)

Agenda approved with the addition of Ban Ratio Utility Billing System (RUBS) Update to the Unfinished/New Business section of the meeting. 2/4 minutes approved.

Public Comment

No public comment.

Mayor's Renter's Survey Data and Conversation

Matt McIntosh, Community Relations Manager, and Kerem Levitas, Senior Policy Advisor, in the Seattle Mayor's Office joined the meeting.

Matt presented a brief background of the Mayoral Renter's Survey data and a preliminary report survey data.

- They will continue to dig into the numbers from the survey results but wanted to share some initial findings with the Renters' Commission.

Members asked questions related to a couple survey questions highlighted in the presentation including one related to whether people are utilizing the Utility Discount Program.

- One commissioner noted she doesn't use the Utility Discount Program because the utilities are in her landlord's name. She's curious if the Mayor will be having conversations with people about why they can't/don't access the program.
- Another commissioner asked if there is data about what percentage of renters are currently aware of the Utility Discount Program.

A commissioner asked if anyone is tracking the evictions from Multifamily Tax Exemption (MFTE) units. The Mayor's Office said they don't have data at this time and will follow up on that.

In relation to next steps, the Mayor's Office plans to continue community engagement (especially in communities that were underrepresented in the initial survey responses) and they plan to partner with Seattle City Council to think about solutions. They plan to reach out to some people who responded to the survey to collect additional context about how they answered (example: even if someone doesn't pay over 50% of their income on rent this could be because they live with roommates). There is not a solid timeline on next steps at this point.

The Mayor's Office is interested in feedback from the Renters' Commission about what continued community engagement can and should look like and how the Commission wants to partner.

Discussion and Vote on Seattle Renters' Commission Bylaws and Associated Documents

Kasey Burton provided updates on proposed changes to the Seattle Renters' Commission bylaws that were edited since the February commission meeting. Commissioners asked clarification questions and there was some discussion. Questions related to tabling at events, joining committees process, etc.

The commissioners reviewed the updated draft Expectations section of the former Norms, Rules, Procedures document. This document is not part of the bylaws but is meant to provide more guidance about day-to-day expectations, roles, values, and practices. Commissioners asked clarification questions and a commissioner emphasized remembering to be welcoming and positive when talking about expectations.

The commission reviewed a document that outlines a list of standing committees and includes expectations for workgroups and committees.

The commission voted on and approved the proposed changes to the bylaws document, expectations section of the Norms, Rules, and Procedures document, and the committee plan document. A roll call vote resulted in 9 ayes and 1 nay.

The commission will revisit the proposed changes to the remaining sections of the Norms, Rules, Procedures document at its April meeting.

Appointments

Laura Jenkins provided updates on recruitment and appointments to the Seattle Renters' Commission. The commission discussed next steps.

- Recommendations for new appointments

- The Renters' Commission interim co-chairs reviewed the 40 applications that have come in from people interested in serving on the commission. They proposed recommending the appointment of four people for the Mayor's Office and Councilmember Foster's Office to consider as they fill vacancies on the commission.
- The commission voted on and approved putting forward its recommendation for top four candidates to choose from to fill vacancies on the Renters' Commission for consideration by the Mayor's Office and Councilmember Foster's Office. There was one abstention. Laura will share these recommendations with the respective offices.
- Vote on Commission-selected Appointment
 - The Renters' Commission voted on and approved the reappointment of Andrew Ashiofu to the Renters' Commission selected seat on the commission through February 28, 2028. Andrew abstained from the vote. Laura will follow up on appointment paperwork.

Renters' Commission Budget

The Renters' Commission has a budget of \$55,000 for 2026. The Renters' Commission voted on and approved the creation of a workgroup to make a list of options on how to spend at least \$50,000 if not all \$55,000. The workgroup would bring that list to a future commission meeting for discussion and possible vote. The workgroup has five members.

Updates and Possible Vote Related to the Seattle Social Housing Developer Board

A workgroup of the commission to meet with Tom Barnard and Katie LeBret to discuss their future on the Seattle Social Housing Board.

- The workgroup decided not to propose a vote for Tom's removal from the Board and they emailed him with information they gathered and next steps.
- Katie submitted her resignation from the Seattle Social Housing Board effective at the conclusion of the March 19, 2026 board meeting.
 - With a vacancy upcoming, the commission voted to appoint Olivia Butkowski to the seat once it becomes vacant for a term through May 22, 2027. Kasey Burton abstained from the vote. Laura will follow up on appointment paperwork.

Unfinished/New Business

- Possible Vote on Seattle Coalition for Family and Relationship Equity
 - As a follow-up to last month's presentation, Jessa Davis, the Executive Director of Seattle Coalition for Family and Relationship Equity (SCFRE), joined the commission meeting. She clarified her ask for the Renters' Commission to sign on to a letter written by the Seattle Human Rights Commission and cosigned by the Seattle LGBTQ Commission to the Mayor's Office and Seattle City Council urging adoption of draft legislation from SCFRE. The commission voted on and approved signing on to this pre-existing letter.
 - Jessa will share the draft ordinance and additional information from her presentation with Laura to forward to the commission for members' review. The commission plans to discuss and possibly vote on this topic at the March meeting.
- Workgroup updates

- Bylaws
- Land and Labor Acknowledgements
- Response to Immigration and Customs Enforcement in Communities
 - A letter around this topic is in the works.
- Seattle Social Housing Developer Board Renters' Commission appointed seats
- Smart Locks, Tenant Privacy, and Surveillance Cameras
- Stay Housed Stay Healthy Coalition Meetings
 - Junk fees
 - A letter around this topic is still in the works as approved by the commission.
- State Level Bills Actions - Washington Low Income Housing Alliance 2026 Priority Bill Tracker
- Ban Ratio Utility Billing System (RUBS) Update
 - Allan Francis provided an update on the Ban RUBS campaign. In the future, they likely will come back to the commission and request that the commission reiterates its support.
- February 11 Event Recap
 - Liz Fite will send out a recap of this event to the commission by email after the meeting for awareness only.
- Focus for Future Presentation from Seattle Department of Construction and Inspections

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned.

Decisions and Votes made during this meeting:

1. The commission voted on and approved the proposed changes to the Renters' Commission bylaws document, expectations section of the Norms, Rules, and Procedures document, and the committee plan document.
2. The commission voted on and approved putting forward its recommendation for top four candidates to choose from to fill vacancies on the Renters' Commission for consideration by the Mayor's Office and Councilmember Foster's Office.
3. The Renters' Commission voted on and approved the reappointment of Andrew Ashiofu to the Renters' Commission selected seat on the commission for a term through February 28, 2028.
4. The Renters' Commission voted on and approved the creation of a workgroup to make a list of options on how to spend at least \$50,000 of the commission's budget if not all \$55,000.
5. With a vacancy upcoming, the commission voted to appoint Olivia Butkowski to the Seattle Social Housing Board seat once it becomes vacant on March 19 for a term through May 22, 2027.
6. The commission voted on and approved signing on to a pre-existing letter written by the Seattle Human Rights Commission and cosigned by the Seattle LGBTQ Commission to the Mayor's Office and Seattle City Council urging adoption of draft legislation from Seattle Coalition for Family and Relationship Equity (SCFRE).