



City of Seattle
Seattle Renters' Commission

SEATTLE RENTERS' COMMISSION (SRC) MEETING MINUTES

June 3, 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, Liz Fite, Sasha Wasserstrom, Elisabeth Benham, Alanna Diggs Andrew Ashiofu, Agni Bhattacharya

Commissioners not in attendance: Julissa Sanchez, Karen Taylor, Adora Blue, Daniel Lugo

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 with a roll call of commissioners present and land and labor acknowledgments. New commissioners introduced themselves.

Approval of the Agenda (6/3); Approval of the Minutes (5/6)

6/3 Agenda approved after several modifications due to a guest speaker being unable to join. 5/6 minutes approved.

Public Comment

No public comment.

Potential Mandatory Housing Affordability (MHA) Reduction

Commissioners discussed Mandatory Housing Affordability and a current push to reduce the fee required by the program. The commission voted on and approved opposing a reduction of MHA. There was one abstention. The Advocacy and Policy Committee figure out next steps related to this vote.

Seattle LGBTQ Commission Declaration of Civil Emergency Recommendation Letter and Possible Vote

The Seattle LGBTQ Commission submitted a letter to the Seattle Mayor and City Council recommending that the City declare a "civil emergency related to services and support for internally displaced 2SLGBTQIA+ individuals relocating to Seattle."

- Commissioner Andrew Ashiofu, who is also a member of the LGBTQ Commission, provided an update that an interdepartmental team is being established to address this situation. Andrew did

comment that the interdepartmental team will not address the more immediate funding needs for services. The LGBTQ Commission sent an updated letter on June 2nd to City officials.

The commission voted on and approved making a statement in support of the Seattle LGBTQ Commission in declaring a state of emergency regarding Trans migration into Seattle and the need for funds and services. The statement will be sent to City Council, the Mayor, and City Attorney's Office, possibly in partnership with the Seattle Human Rights Commission. The Partnerships and Relationships Committee will follow-up on next steps.

Renters' Commission Budget and Possible Vote

Co-Chair Lydia Felty provided a reminder overview of the commission's budget timeline for 2026. The commission has \$55,000 to spend this year including \$50,000 that needs to go towards a strategic plan.

Committee chairs provided proposals for spending for each committee, and the commission made votes as follows:

- Executive Committee
 - The commission voted on approved \$15,000 be allotted to the Executive Committee to contract with a consultant to develop a five-year strategic plan, one-year work plan, and, if needed, a retreat to help the consultant create a plan. This includes the expectation that the Executive Committee will come back to the commission on July 1 with a proposal for a specific consultant and a solidified cost estimate.
 - The Executive Committee will discuss collectively what is needed (template-wise) for more detailed budget proposals.
- Outreach & Engagement
 - The Outreach & Engagement Committee proposed spending up to \$10,000 on items that fit within these categories: tabling, printing, digital & online assets, town halls & listening sessions, and misc.
 - The commission voted on and approved the Outreach & Engagement Committee's proposed \$10,000 budget.
- Commission Development
 - The Commission Development Committee does not yet have solid budget requests but are looking into possible training opportunities and technology platforms for the commission. They may come back to the commission in July with a more solid proposal.
- Advocacy & Policy
 - This committee would like to create a State of Renting report (including printing) and accessing additional data.
 - The commission voted in favor of allocating \$10,000 to the Advocacy & Policy Committee to support the effort of creating a report on state of renting in Seattle including any labor, printing, and events involved in that process.
- Partnerships & Relationships
 - The commission voted in favor of providing \$10,000 to the Partnerships & Relationships Committee for a community training and other ideas under consideration including

hosting a guest speaker, cosponsoring events, and/or hosting a social for organizations doing tenant related advocacy.

- Laura Jenkins mentioned that food for meetings and reimbursement for transit travel to regular meetings would cost less than \$2,000 for the rest of the year.
- Once the Commission Development brings forward a budget proposal July 1, the Executive Committee can allocate remaining funding from the \$55,000 on items like translation, interpretation, meeting refreshments, venues, equipment rentals, etc. as requested. The commission voted on and approved that the Executive Committee will have authorization to release additional funds from the shared pool as needed.

Unfinished/New Business

- Seattle Ban RUBS Campaign Request and Possible Vote
 - The Renters' Commission voted on and approved collaborating with the Seattle Ban RUBS campaign on outreach and supplies for a renters town hall. The Outreach & Engagement Committee will follow up on this.
- Redwood Housing Affordable housing development in North Capitol Hill – survey
 - Uncommon Bridges emailed the Renters' Commission with information on the survey and project. The Partnerships & Relationships Committee will follow up and request a meeting for more information.
- Committee updates
 - Committee chairs provided committee updates as they outlined budget proposals in the Renters' Commission Budget and Possible Vote portion of the agenda.
- Announcements and updates from staff liaison
 - Laura provided updates to the commission on upcoming events and meetings.

Commissioner Commitments

Commissioners went around and shared what they plan to work on between now and the next Renters' Commission meeting.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned.

Decisions and Votes made during this meeting

1. Approved opposing a reduction of Mandatory Housing Affordability.
2. Approved making a statement in support of the Seattle LGBTQ Commission in declaring a state of emergency regarding Trans migration into Seattle and the need for funds and services.
3. Approved allocation of \$45,000 for various items proposed by committees.
4. Approved that the Executive Committee will have authorization to release additional funds from the shared pool as needed after the July 1 meeting.
5. Approved collaborating with the Seattle Ban RUBS campaign on outreach and supplies for a renters town hall.