



City of Seattle
Seattle Renters' Commission

Kim McGillivray & Daniel Godfrey, Co-Chairs

SEATTLE RENTERS' COMMISSION (SRC)

MINUTES

January 3, 2024

6:15-7:45 PM

Webex, online

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: Kim McGillivray, Lydia Felty, Dan Godfrey,

Commissioners not in attendance: Char Smith, Sendia Registin, Julissa Sanchez, Atif Osmani, Kate Rubin, Tavo Moline

Public attendance: Julia Payne, Kayellen Zimmerman, Daniel Lugo

Staff: Zach Frimmel, Civic Engagement Coordinator

Quorum: No

Minutes approved: None

(Transcriber's Note: Seattle Renters' Commission meeting minutes are not an exact transcript and represent key points and the basis of discussion. The recording of the minutes is available upon request.)

Welcome

Co-chairs opened with Land & Labor Acknowledgements and approved meeting minutes for October and November meetings, including the Special Meetings.

Agenda item #1 Public Comment

Public Comment #1

Kayellen Zimmerman from the Seattle Social Housing PDA Board came to ask about the SRC's progress on replacing one of the SRC-appointed Board members who resigned early. She shared that the Board has an upcoming retreat as well as educational classes on topics like housing acquisition, so the Board is hoping that the replacement Board member can be appointed in time to sync up with these events. The Board retreat would be a 6-hour event to develop



communications between members on the Board. Kay also shared the Board got \$20,000 from the City and a little bit from Frank Chopp through the legislators. So \$875,000 which is enough to get them started.

Kay shared an FYI that another SRC-appointed Board member is on sabbatical for health reasons and so the Board will reach out if they need another replacement.

Public Comment # 2

Daniel Lugo applied and was interviewed by the SRC and so gave his elevator pitch for why he is interested in serving on the SRC. He has been along-time renter and moved to Seattle in 2013 when he moved to college. Excited to get involved. He works for a nonprofit as their manager policy and government relations. The nonprofit is Treehouse, and are Washington States leading organization on, um, supporting the educational needs of youth experiencing foster care. Prior to his current position, I actually worked at the state legislature as representative Frank Chopps, legislative assistant.

So learned a lot under his wing and is really excited to take what he's learned not only through his current day job, but then also his time at the legislature. "But then, also through my lived experience, so I, I went through the foster care system and after graduating college, all my supports were cut off. So, I actually exited into homelessness lived out in my car. There's a lot of work to be done to make sure that, you know, rent is affordable for for people here in Seattle. But then also, like. You know, it should be a stepping stone for folks to, you know, pursue other things, like, owning their own homes and, and that sort of stuff. Um, so, yeah, just super excited to be a part of this, uh, meeting and hopefully a part of this group and I'm happy to answer any questions."

Agenda item #2 Seattle Social Housing PDA Board replacement

The co-chairs shared they had heard back from 3 of the 4 top candidates for a replacement. These 4 candidates were top candidates from the original SSh PDA Board application process and their names are: Marit Saltrones, Joelle Craft, Gina Owens, and Wylie Duffy. A question came up about whether the replacement Board member would need to fill the same AMI criteria as the Board member that resigned. In this meeting, the co-chairs understanding that the law did not articulate this need.

- Staff Liaison/Transcriber's note: After this meeting, it was determined that the SRC does in fact need to apply the same criteria to the replacement appointee as the outgoing one based on the language below stated in the I-135 charter found under Article VII, Section 9:



- “Section 9. Removal of Board Members. If any Board member resigns, or becomes ineligible to serve, or misses three (3) or more consecutive Board meetings or two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) of scheduled Board meetings in six (6) consecutive months, they shall be replaced, unless the absences have been excused by the Board. The replacement member shall be selected in the same manner as the departing Board member.” <https://www.houseourneighbors.org/initiative-text>

The co-chairs proceeded to ask Kay about what the Board was looking for in a replacement regarding skillset. Kay shared there are a lot of strong personalities on the Board. She has a deep background in facilitating communications. The Board is about to form the hiring committee to search and hire their CEO. They are deciding which search firm to hire for their national search for a CEO. The Board is looking for people who have experience making big decision like this search.

A co-chair shared some notes from interviewing 3 of the 4 candidates.

- Marit - works for Seattle Public Schools and is a former journalist. Feels strongly about social justice issues. She had been in leadership roles, dealing with unreasonable people, homelessness issues. Experience with housing insecurity. Most of her neighbors now are formerly unhoused folks.
- Wylie - “I was lucky when I got here Seattle more than a decade ago, I came here and struggled and finally benefited from getting affordable housing.” Worked on campaign for I-135 and applied when she heard about the opportunity to be on the PDA Board. She stays close to the struggles and live in pioneer Square now, and when there's hot meals for the unhoused neighbors, like a group or a food truck. When asked what are some of the greatest needs of people who need affordable housing in Seattle. Fewer barriers, because there's a lot of gatekeeping.
- Joelle – also worked on the I-135 campaign as well as for Seattle Public Schools. Volunteers with Washington Community Action Network and mutual aid efforts. She identified health care as the biggest need. You have to be able to survive as it's one of the biggest skills working against us.
- Gina Owens – previous SRC co-chairs before current co-chairs. One of the older folks who applied for the PDA Board. 30 years (personal and professional) working and lived experience with street homelessness and advocacy through Real Change and Mockingbird Society.

The co-chairs made a note they would need to schedule a Special meeting to vote on a PDA Board replacement as well as vote on new SRC members they interviewed: Michael McCrystal, Simone Barron, and Daniel Lugo.



Agenda item #3 Objectives for Strategic Planning Retreat

Commissioners talked about the high-level concept of what their upcoming retreat was going to be. They revisited past conversations that shared their interests of outreach, cultural awareness, collaboration and questions like “Who are you as a group?”. Other interested retreat topics were working on the plan.

Agenda item #4 2024 terms expiring/renewing + co-chair status

The co-chairs listed off 5 SRC commissioners’ terms that would be ending on 2/28/24. 2 of them are being reappointed. Co-chairs are frustrated that appointments take so long and they have SRC-approved appointees who can’t participate.

Adjourn