

Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission Regular Meeting

November 6, 2024

The November 6, 2024, Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission (SEEC) Regular Meeting convened in Seattle Municipal Tower Conference Room 4080 and remotely. Chair Kristin Hawes, Vice-Chair Susan Taylor, and Commissioner Bobby Forch were present. Commissioners Zach Pekelis, Jonathan Schirmer, and Richard Shordt participated via Webex. Commissioner Chalia Stallings-Ala'ilima was absent. Executive Director Wayne Barnett and staff members Fedden Amar, Chrissy Courtney, Cliff Duggan, Randal Fu, and Renée LeBeau were present. Staff Polly Grow and Marc Mayo participated via Webex as well as Assistant City Attorneys Joe Levan and Gary Smith and Paralegal Lauren Arndt.

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m.

Discussion of Written Public Comment

As of November 5, no written public comment was received by Ethics and Elections.

Final Action Items

1. Adoption of October 2, 2024, Commission Regular Meeting minutes

The Chair provided comment and a correction to a parenthetical under Final Action Item

3. *Request to renew contract with City of Kirkland.* Hearing no other comments, the motion to adopt the October 2, 2024, Commission Regular Meeting minutes as corrected was made by Commissioner Forch and duly seconded. The motion passed unanimously with five ayes.

2. **Appeal of Executive Director's Dismissal of Complaint**

The Chair stated per SEEC Administrative Rule 4 (Appeals), the Commission's standard of review is whether the Executive Director had a rational basis for the decision to dismiss a complaint.

[It was noted that Commissioner Pekelis joined the meeting at this time.]

The person filing the appeal summarized their complaint. The Executive Director said that the complaint was against a City Department which is more of an Auditor-like function. The Executive Director had shared this information with the person. The SEEC's purview is with respect to an individual employee and a specific action.

The motion confirming that the Commission will not review the Executive Director's dismissal with respect to this complaint and will not participate or grant the request for the appeal was made by Commissioner Schirmer and duly seconded. The motion carried unanimously with six ayes.

Discussion Items

1. Revision of Lobbying Rules

The Executive Director and Ms. Courtney presented a revised draft of the SEEC Lobbying Rules as part of updating the website. Two new Rules were added: Rule 11 *Dues Paid to Organizations Sponsoring Lobbying Events* and Rule 12 *Large Expenditures for Indirect aka Grassroots Campaigns*. The revised Lobbying Rules will be submitted for adoption at the next Regular Meeting.

2. Democracy Voucher Program report

Ms. LeBeau presented the *SEEC: Democracy Voucher Program Update*. The 2025 Democracy Voucher Outreach RFP Notice of Award will be November 18. Training sessions are scheduled for January 22 and 25.

3. Executive Director's report

a. Election of 2025 SEEC Chair and Vice-Chair

The Executive Director stated the Commission will be called upon at the December 4 Commission Regular Meeting to vote on a new Chair and Vice-Chair for 2025.

b. Candidates for Commission-elected position

Vice-Chair Taylor will be rotating off the Commission after a new Commission-elected Commissioner has been appointed and confirmed by the City Council. A draft posting of this position was included in the meeting packet posting. The Executive Director requested Commissioners to review the document and provide comments.

The Executive Director mentioned Commissioner Shordt (Council-appointed) and Commissioner Stallings-Ala'ilima (Mayor-appointed) will be rotating off the Commission.

Hearing no further comments for the good of the order, the November 6, 2024, SEEC Commission Regular Meeting was adjourned at 4:32 p.m.