

Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission Regular Meeting

February 5, 2025

The February 5, 2025, Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission (SEEC) Regular Meeting convened in Seattle Municipal Tower Room 4080 and remotely. Commissioner Susan Taylor was present. Chair Zach Pekelis, Vice-Chair Jonathan Schirmer, and Commissioners Bobby Forch, Kristin Hawes, and Richard Shordt participated via Webex. Commissioner Chalia Stallings-Ala'ilima was absent. Executive Director Wayne Barnett and staff members Fedden Amar, Cliff Duggan, Amanda Francke, Randal Fu, René LeBeau, and Jennifer Martinez were present. Staff Chrissy Courtney and Polly Grow participated via Webex as well as Assistant City Attorneys Joe Levan and Gary Smith.

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m. The Executive Director recommended that the Commissioners spend ten minutes preparing for the upcoming interviews.

Final Action Item

Selection of new SEEC Commission-appointed Commissioner

The Executive Director introduced the first candidate to interview, Mr. Jayson Morris. At 4:20 p.m., the Executive Director introduced the second candidate, Ms. Vivian Vassall. The third candidate, Mr. Sean Waite, was introduced at 4:50 p.m.

The Chair called for an Executive Session to allow the Commissioners and Assistant City Attorneys to discuss the candidates' qualifications. The session began at 5:08 p.m. and concluded at 5:33 p.m. The Chair polled the Commissioners. Ms. Vassall was selected to the Commission-appointed position with six ayes. The Executive Director will contact the three candidates.

Discussion of Written Public Comment (if any)

The Commission reviewed the December 30, 2024, and January 9, 2025, emails from Josh Wiechman regarding ethical failures and oversight issues at the Seattle Department of Construction and Inspections and the SEEC.

A motion was made by Vice-Chair Schirmer that the Commission does not find the Executive Director has an alleged conflict of interest with these complaints and directs the Executive Director to address these complaints. It was duly seconded. The motion carried by six ayes.

Final Action Item

Adoption of January 8, 2025, Commission Special Meeting minutes

The Chair asked if there were any changes to the January 8, 2025, Commission Special Meeting minutes. Hearing none, the motion to adopt the minutes as written was made by Commissioner Hawes and duly seconded. The motion passed unanimously with six ayes.

Discussion Items

1. DVP Report

Ms. LeBeau introduced a new temporary staff person, Amanda Francke. Ms. Francke will be assisting Mr. Fu with the 2025 Voucher processing cycle.

Ms. LeBeau reviewed the DVP Report on 2025 Election Cycle preparation.

2. Executive Director's report

The Executive Director will send Ms. Vassall's Commission application packet to the Council's Governance, Accountability & Economic Development Committee for review next month. After the review, the application will be forwarded to the Council to confirm the appointment. Commissioner Taylor was requested to attend the March meeting.

The Executive Director will be out of town on March 5 but will participate in the meeting via Webex. At that meeting, Commissioners will adopt a rule accepting the most current Departmental lists of identified City employees required to file Financial Interest Statements.

Since there was no further business, the February 5, 2025, SEEC Commission Regular Meeting was adjourned at 5:58 p.m.

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