



Minutes

Indigenous Advisory Council

Friday, March 14, 2025

12:30 PM PST – 2:30 PM PST

In-Person Meeting Location

Seattle City Hall 600 4th Ave, Seattle, WA 98104

Room 370

[Instructions for visiting Seattle City Hall \(bus access, parking, & building access\)](#)

Remote Meeting Location

Webex

Members Present

Councilmember Donny Stevenson, Councilmember Jay Mills, Esther Lucero, Asia Tail & Jaci McCormack

Members Excused

Councilmember Jeremy Takala, Megan Castillo, Suzanne Sailto & Derrick Belgarde

Meeting Guests

Katy Haima, Office of Planning and Community Development; Abriel Johnny and George Farrell, Healthier Here; Elise Rasmussen, Office of Sustainability and Environment; Matt Remle and Rachel Heaton, Green New Deal Oversight Board

Items

Number	Topic	Time
1	Welcome and Opening Blessing	5 min
2	Approval of the Agenda (February) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Approved without changes. Approval of the Minutes (January) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Approved without changes.	5 min
3	City of Seattle Design Guidelines to Sound Transit <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Staff from the Office of Planning and Community Development (OPCD) returned to share updates on how feedback from the Indigenous Advisory Council in 2024 was integrated into the City's Design Guidelines to Sound Transit.• Staff provided a recap of the Sound Transit 3 project including the West Seattle and Ballard Light Rail Extensions. Sound Transit is the lead agency on designing and building light rail stations. The City of Seattle does have opportunities to influence station design of stations of 13 new stations coming to Seattle through Design Guidelines and review processes of the Design Commission. The	20 min

Design Guidelines are one important reference check for the Design Commission’s review of Sound Transit projects. In May 2024, the Seattle Department of Construction and Inspection (SCDI) finalized [Director’s Rule 2-2024 updating the City of Seattle Light Rail Design Guidelines](#).

- The areas of the guidelines that were influenced by IAC feedback included use of cultural landscape analysis, integration of sustainability practices, and several areas of design including programming and architecture. Other themes of tribal consultation and engagement with Indigenous communities were also integrated into several areas of the guidelines.
- Discussion included how to integrate the IAC and into the review process of the Design Commission who holds a role in reviewing Sound Transit design plans and internal staff coordination to identify future opportunities to engage the IAC. Discussion and examples of public art projects that have included Native artists throughout the Seattle waterfront, Convention Center, and other large civic projects in recent years. Discussion of tribal artists registries and other collectives of Native artists, and language programs that already exist and could be resources for public realm design opportunities. Discussion of the role of wayfinding in creating places of belonging and celebration of cultures and histories. Discussion of the challenges of competitive art processes for many emerging artists and the need for creative partnerships to bring artists that specialize in other medias into translate to large scale public realm projects (ex. of basket weavers informing building design). Discussion of the use of Tribal partnerships and review panels compromised of community representatives.

4

Indigenous Health Equity

20 min

- Representatives of Healthier Here presented on the past and upcoming work of the organization. Healthier Here is a non-profit multi-sector collaborative that works on integrated and equitable whole-person care in King County. Healthier Here is also a Medicaid Transformation Project authorized under a Medicaid Waiver to Washington State from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid to improve health outcomes. Representatives shared about the mission and vision of Healthier Here to amplify community power to co-create solutions to address the systemic causes of health disparities by leading with equity, mobilizing support, fostering collaboration, and strengthening systems of care. Discussion of the years of Tribal

and Native engagement undertaken by the organizations including dedicated seats on the governing board and in committees for Tribes and Urban Indian Health Care Providers. Review of an Indigenous Nations Committee comprised of a diverse range of Native-serving community-based organizations, Indigenous professionals, traditional healers, storytellers, cultural experts, and beneficiaries of services. The Indigenous Nations Committee and other Governing roles have played a role in working on a variety of community facing projects, investments, and training resources.

- Representatives shared about the development of the Tribal Communication and Collaboration Policy used by Healthier Here to engage with Tribal governments and Urban Indian Health Programs.
- Representatives shared about upcoming engagement opportunities to co-develop Tribal Strategic Priorities, a Community HUB, and an update of the collaboration and coordination policy that will take place through summer 2025.
- Represented requested recommendations on organizations and community members that may wish to engage in developing strategic priorities or the Community HUB. The Community HUB is a developing effort of Healthier Here that connects community members with relevant health and human services.
- Discussion of a [Washington State bill](#) that would require the Healthcare Authority of Washington to apply for a 1115 Medicaid Waiver to include traditional medicine as a billable service. Discussion of the positive impact of that legislation on Indian Health Care Provider participation in a Community HUB.

 5

Old Business
20 min

Seattle City Council meetings

- Staff and members recap meetings with new Seattle City Councilmembers. Meetings including overviews of the Indigenous Advisory Council's role and priorities and discussions of Councilmember priorities. Discussion of opportunities for the commission to play a role in encouraging the City to take a stronger position of support of the political distinction of Tribal governments and Tribal beneficiaries in the midst of federal actions and ongoing uncertainties at the federal government level. Discussion of the role of the commission in elevating shared priorities on this topic that are already being voiced by Tribes, tribal organizations, and urban Indian organizations nationally. Discussion to be revisited at future meetings to determine options and next steps.
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Innovative Approaches to Culturally Specific Affordable Housing webinar

- Review of panelists from Native American Youth and Family Center (NAYA), Native American Rehabilitation Association of the Northwest (NARA NW) and Hobbs, Straus, Dean, & Walker.
- Discussion of the webinar registration, marketing, event agenda, and panelist questions. Discussion of how to ensure questions are helpful to the different structures of housing providers that may attend such as Tribal Designated Housing Entities, urban Indian organizations, public development authorities, and other governments and affordable housing providers.

Missing and Murdered Indigenous People advocacy

- Review of requests to learn more about Seattle Police Departments efforts to address aspects of MMIP including assessments and improvements to data collection, data sharing and interjurisdictional coordination with Tribal law enforcement, and challenges to collecting tribal affiliation data. Discussion of the importance of leveraging internal resources such as the Indigenous Advisory Council, the Statewide MMIP Taskforce or other groups that work on MMIP issues. Discussion of how the lack of engagement between law enforcement and non-law enforcement partners re-enforces a lack of trust and community frustration around these issues.

6

Green New Deal and the Green New Deal Oversight Board

35 min

- Staff and members of the Green New Deal Oversight Board presented in the history and ongoing work of the Green New Deal for the City of Seattle. Representatives shared background on the Office of Sustainability and Environment's (OSE) role in ensuring a clean and healthy environment for all Seattle residents. Review of the Equity and Environment Initiative that provided the blueprint for advancing race and social justice in Seattle's environmental work and the subsequent Green New Deal. The Green New Deal focuses on addressing the climate crisis and environmental justices, build an inclusive low-carbon economy, and promotion of community health and well-being. Representative shared about the 10 years of Native community organizing and youth organizing underpinning the Green New Deal legislation that informs the Green New Deal and oversight work to this day. Representatives shared about the advocacy efforts to fund the Green New Deal through a 9% allocation from the Payroll Expense Tax. Representatives reviewed the role and composition of the oversight board and shared about current openings on the board.
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- Discussion of the opportunities for collaboration between the commissions including information sharing and referrals on board appointments, partnering over an Indigenous focused community assembly, advising on Indigenous Led Climate Initiatives Fund, and advising on updates to the climate action plan. IAC staff and representatives expressed interest in adding future GNOB meetings to build relationships. Discussions of sharing interest in climate resilience and protection of native plants and native foods of the land and waters in and around Seattle. Discussion of shared interest in water and air quality. Staff will continue to meet internally to coordinate opportunities for collaboration.

7	Member Announcements <ul style="list-style-type: none">• No member announcement.	Up to 5 min
8	Hybrid Public Comment <ul style="list-style-type: none">• No requests for public comment.	Up to 10 min
9	Closing & Next Steps <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Quater 1 invoicing due 04/15/25.	