



Minutes

Indigenous Advisory Council

Friday, May 9, 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 Jay Mills, Megan Castillo, Esther Lucero, Derrick Belgarde, and Jaci McCormack

Members Excused

Councilmember Donny Stevenson, Suzanne Sailto, Asia Tail, Councilmember Jeremy Takala

Meeting Guests

Gabriel de los Angeles, Indian Parent Advisory Council; Lisa Ciecko, Danielle Devier, and Jacob de Guzman with Seattle Parks and Recreation; and Ruby Stacey, Lizzie Jespersen, and Lauren MacGee with Pyramid Communications

Items

Number	Topic	Time
1	Welcome and Opening Blessing	5 min
2	Approval of the Agenda (May) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No quorum at this point in the meeting. Approval of the Minutes (March and April) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No quorum at this point in the meeting. 	5 min
3	Indian Parent Advisory Council (IPAC) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chair of the Indian Parent Advisory Committee (IPAC) for Seattle Public Schools (SPS) shared updates on the challenges and current status of the Native Education Program (Title 6). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Native Education program has been reduced from 10 to 2 staff. IPAC is designing a community strategic plan with community partners. Emphasis that IPAC is in a year of rebuilding, and they have a desire to build relationships with members of the IAC, Tribes, various City of Seattle departments. 	25 min

- Current issues IPAC faces include the resignation of SPS Superintendent Brent Jones and the uncertainty of who will become the new SPS Superintendent.
- Members thanked the chair for attending and mentioned that they would be interested in attending an upcoming IPAC meeting. The IPAC chair said they are just had their final meeting of the school year and invited the IAC to attend a moving up ceremony for Indigenous students in June 2025.

4 **Green Seattle Partnership Strategic Plan** **35 min**

- Representatives from the Green Seattle Partnership returned to seek input from the IAC on their Strategic Plan that is in early development.
 - Staff and consultants provided an overview of the Green Seattle Partnership organization and their partnerships with urban Native communities.
- Through the Strategic Planning process, GSP intends to:
 - Grow the timeline past 20 years to recognize programming value, commitment and ecological timescales.
 - Make space for reflection and renewal, offering room to develop where we want to move collectively.
 - Reveal internal and external perceptions about, and priorities for Green Seattle Partnership.
 - Build and deepen relationships and celebrate!
- They outlined the timeline for the planning process which starts now and is expected to wrap up in fall 2025.
- Green Seattle Partnership’s planned engagement methods include:
 - Advisory Sessions
 - Briefing Meetings
 - Focus Groups
 - Survey
 - Individual Interviews
 - Pillar Working Groups
- Their tribal engagement and consultation includes identifying best-fit approach and avenues with direction from Office of Intergovernmental Relations and Seattle Parks & Recreation through government-to-government engagement.
- Green Seattle Partnership is approaching relationship building with urban Indigenous communities by facilitating a gathering with urban Indigenous leaders to build and strengthen relationships. There is

also an opportunity for pillar working group to bring additional focus and longer timeline to integrate priorities in the strategic plan.

- Green Seattle Partnership asked the IAC these questions:
 - What 2-3 priorities do you most want to see GSP focus on... In the next three years? How about 10 years?
 - What values have you seen GSP engage and lead with?
 - In recent focus groups, we've heard folks encourage more sharing of Tribal engagement on the land, and stories of Native stewardship and relationship to place. Is this something you would like to see from GSP? What form would you hope to see it take?
 - How would you hope to see GSP engage with urban Native communities in Seattle?
- Members' feedback and questions for Green Seattle Partnership include:
 - Encouragement to connect with Tribal staff doing traditional plant food and medicine related work;
 - Keeping Seattle green by protecting open spaces and public parks;
 - Revitalizing underutilized parks and green space
 - Partnering with builders to maximize green space in new developments;
 - Taking care of the streams and waterways that flow into the Salish Sea and impact traditional food sources and treaty rights;
 - Starting every story with Tribal experience and Tribal histories of the places and spaces around Seattle; and
 - Making it easier for urban Natives to access land and gardening opportunities, including the Seattle P-Patch program. Examples of the need to adjust restrictions on the management of P-Patch plots to be more conducive of Indigenous land stewardship practices that support traditional plant foods and medicines.

5	Families, Education, Preschool, and Promise Levy Overview	15 min
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Department of Education and Early Learning will present at the June meeting. In the meantime, they share high-level information about the Families, Education, Preschool, and Promise Levy renewal. • Mayor Harrell announced the Every Child Ready Initiative and his proposal to renew the Families, Education, Preschool, and Promise levy on April 23. 	

- The initiative aims to support every child be
 - **Ready to Start** kindergarten by investing in affordable, high-quality early learning opportunities
 - **Ready to Learn** in K-12 by creating safe, healthy school environments, and
 - **Ready to Launch** into college and careers with free tuition at Seattle Colleges and job training opportunities.
- To renew the expiring FEPP levy, this proposal would levy a \$1.3 billion property tax over 6-years (2026-2031) to fund services through the 2031-2032 school year.
- The City Council Select Committee on the FEPP Levy is now considering the legislation and will convene into June 2025.

6

Old Business

35 min

Missing and Murdered Indigenous People (MMIP) Advocacy

- SPD confirmed for July IAC meeting. DON requested this cover:
 - Overview of SPD's role and other system partners roles in missing persons and violent crime cases.
 - Overview of how and data collected across case type. Summary of challenges to expanded data collection.
 - Detailed overview of cold case work and any other MMIP Data Program initiatives.
- Dept of Neighborhoods confirmed an introductory meeting with Chief Barnes to build relationships and share IAC priorities on May 15. Various members plan to attend along with Department of Neighborhoods staff.

Draft Priorities

- Staff provided a draft of 2025 budget and policy priorities for members consideration. Priorities from 2024 remain very similar, but include additional detail for clarity and alignment.
- Because there was not a quorum of members for this portion of the meeting, the IAC will vote on these priorities at a future meeting.

Fort Lawton Redevelopment

- Up to 500 affordable housing units and almost 22 acres of public parkland at Fort Lawton in Discovery Park.
 - Chief Seattle Club recently selected for 85-100 units of permanent supportive housing.
 - \$20 million in the biennium state budget for infrastructure.
 - Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (DSEIS) is open for public comment through 5/21.
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- 5/21 in-person public comment at Daybreak Star Indian Cultural Center.
- Tribal engagement requests have been sent.
- Next Steps
 - Revised Redevelopment Plan at Seattle City Council (2nd Quarter 2025)
 - Submission to US Army (2nd Quarter 2025)

7	Member Announcements <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A member shared the Seattle Indian Health Board got the final construction permits for the Thunderbird Treatment Center this week. It'll be an 11-month project to create a 92-bed inpatient treatment center.• Another member announced they are starting in a role at Friends of Waterfront Park.	Up to 5 min
8	Hybrid Public Comment <ul style="list-style-type: none">• In relation to the Green Seattle Partnership's presentation, a community member emphasized the value in prioritizing publicly grown Indigenous foods. They also discussed the number of Indigenous students at SPS schools and asked in what ways are they connecting with Native families.	Up to 10 min
8	Closing & Next Steps	
