



Minutes

Indigenous Advisory Council

Friday, July 10, 2026

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: Microsoft Teams

Members Present: Chairman Donny Stevenson, Councilmember Jay Mills, Tia Yazzie, Suzanne Sailto, Esther Lucero, Derrick Belgarde, and Eddie Sherman

Members Excused: Councilmember Jeremy Takala and Jaci McCormack

Meeting Guests: Narita Ghumman and Ximena Fonseca-Morales, Office of Sustainability and Environment; Kirsten Mandt and Allison Miller, Office of Planning and Community Development

Agenda

Welcome and Opening Blessing:

Meeting opened by Councilmember Mills

Approval of the Agenda and Minutes:

- Approval of the Agenda (July): Approved, no changes
- Approval of the Minutes (April): Approved, no changes
- Approval of the Minutes (May): Approved, no changes
- Approval of the Minutes (June): Approved, no changes

Member Introductions:

- Indigenous Advisory Council (IAC) members completed introductions

Office of Sustainability and Environment:

- Staff from the Office from Sustainability and Environment (OSE) presented updates to the Indigenous Advisory Council on the Environmental Justice Fund, the Green New Deal Oversight Board, and the Climate Action Plan.
- OSE staff explained that the purpose of the Environmental Justice Fund is to invest in climate and environmental justice solutions by communities that are impacted first and worst by climate change. They asked the Indigenous Advisory Council to recommend eligible entities to apply for the funding by July 15th.



- After a brief overview of the Green New Deal Oversight Board, OSE provided more information about board applications and specifically the outreach for Tribal representation on the board. The Board was open to applications for seat positions that represent frontline communities, labor organizations, Tribes, and youth. Memos were sent to local Tribes for GNDOB's open seat positions and will remain open until filled by the Tribes' representatives.
- The Climate Action Plan, last updated in 2013, is currently undergoing a review process to modernize the plan to reflect worsening impacts from climate change. OSE staff explained the goals and timeline, as well as the deliverables for the plan. These deliverables include a progress report on the last plan, the new plan, and a tracking framework for the new plan.
- Indigenous Advisory Council members asked for more information on how lack of federal funding might impact the plan. OSE provided feedback that the new plan will be created with consideration of local and federal funding constraints.
- IAC members also asked for more information on the impact reducing cars and increasing biking and alternative travel methods might have on access for low-income individuals as public transit options are not able to meet the demand.
- Additional feedback included that investments in clean energy, clean transportation and light rail are needed to reduce water pollution in the Salish Sea. Storm-water run-off contaminated with diesel and other pollutants have impacted Indigenous food systems, which primarily come from the Salish Sea.
- IAC members reiterated that various systems are interconnected and praised the plan for looking at climate change impacts across various systems throughout the City and not as the sole responsibility of a single department or action.
- IAC members recommended that Tribes assist in the Climate Action Plan and encouraged the Office of Sustainability and Environment to present to the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians' Climate Resilience Committee at their conference in September.

Office of Planning and Community Development:

- Staff from the Office of Planning and Community Development (OPCD) presented updates on the Regional Centers Plans to the Indigenous Advisory Council. They also provided a brief overview of the plans and their role in the City of Seattle's Comprehensive Plan.



- Updates on the plans included how they have been divided into three packages with the first package being recently sent to City Council. This first package included Downtown and Northgate and will be open for comment at Council soon.
- The Comprehensive Plan provides overall visioning and Indigenous values for all plans, but the Northgate and Downtown plans included specific Indigenous engagement. For those plans, priorities from the Indigenous community included a wider range of housing types for multigenerational households, land trust models, Indigenous economic develop, and salmon stream restoration.
- Currently, they are focusing on developing Package 2, which includes First Hill/Capital Hill, South Lake Union, Uptown, and the University District. OPCD will return to the Indigenous Advisory Council in August to discuss package 2 more in-depth, but staff provided an overview of current community engagement efforts.
- The Indigenous Advisory Council requested more information on the Native Neighborhoods studies and similar studies done as part of the Regional Centers Planning. Also requested data on the population of Indigenous communities in the districts.
- Additional feedback provided to OPCD from the IAC was to include Tribes in discussions on fish passages to ensure culverts and other blockages are being identified and removed as part of the regional plans.
- The Indigenous Advisory Council also requested more information on Indigenous specific projects that are being created or are included as part of the Comprehensive and Regional Centers Plans.

Old Business:

- The Indigenous Advisory Council approved changes to the bylaws for rotating facilitation, governance and spokespeople positions.
 - The IAC voted to make the spokespersons and governance people the same. Each selected team of two members will hold both roles at the same time and be randomly selected.
 - The IAC also requested more communication be done via text messages as emails are harder for quick feedback on schedule changes and other notifications.
 - The members also expressed interest in more executive sessions for planning.



- First Peoples Climate Fund was discussed and the Indigenous Advisory Council decided to withhold adding it to their budget priorities until after discussions with the Green New Deal Oversight Board and a review of potential budget impacts.
- An update was provided by staff liaison on Indigenous Peoples' Day planning and timeline for contracts. The contracts for IPD will be processed in July.
 - A budget adjustment request was made to provide funding from the Indigenous Advisory Council's general budget to purchase small handheld Indigenous Peoples' Day flags to be distributed to event organizers and community. The IAC approved the budget request.
 - The Indigenous Advisory Council suggested a debrief meeting be arranged with the Indigenous Peoples' Day organizers after the events to receive feedback on how to improve planning for 2027. The Indigenous Advisory Council wants to ensure that Indigenous Peoples' Day remains a community-led effort and wants to be an ally and support to community organizers.
- Staff liaison provided an update on Indigenous Civic Engagement Day planning. Reviewed the tentative agenda, topics for the networking activity, flyer, and budget. The Indigenous Advisory Council approved the agenda, topics, and flyer, and recommended continuing to follow the advice of the community partners and the IAC members on the planning committee.
- A group of participants from Urban Native Education Alliance's summer youth program will be visiting Seattle City Hall on August 19th. Indigenous Advisory Council look forward to meeting with the students.
- An annual update on the work of the Indigenous Advisory Council will be presented to Finance, Native Communities, and Tribal Governments committee on July 21st, 2026.

Member Announcements

- Thunderbird Treatment Center on Vashon Island will host a grand opening on July 11th.
- Rise Above will be hosting a Youth Hoops Tournament on the Seattle Waterfront on August 1-2nd.
- The Seafair Indian Days Powwow will be July 17th to 19th at Daybreak Star Cultural Center.



- Muckleshoot Tribe will be hosting a Sobriety Powwow and Co-ed Softball Tournament on July 24th to 26th.
- Annual Canoe Journey will be starting in July, and protocols will be hosted by Nisqually from July 31st to August 5th.

Hybrid Public Comment

There were no requests for public comment.

Closing & Next Steps

Meeting was adjourned.