



Minutes

Indigenous Advisory Council

Friday, May 31, 2024

10:00 AM PST – 4:00 PM PST

In-Person Meeting Location

Salish Lodge

6501 Railroad Ave, Snoqualmie, WA 98065



Members Present

Councilmember Donny Stevenson, Councilmember Jay Mills, Councilmember Jeremy Takala, Megan Castillo, Suzanne Sailto, Esther Lucero, Derrick Belgarde, & Jaci McCormack

Members Excused

Asia Tail

Meeting Guests

Chair Robert de los Angeles, Councilmember Jolene Williams, Tim Reynon & Matt Echo-Hawk Hayashi

Items

| Number | Topic | Time |
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| 1 | Welcome and Opening Blessing | 5 min |
| 2 | Approval of the Agenda (May – Special Meeting) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approved without changes. | 5 min |
| 3 | Public Comment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No requests for public comment. | Up to 10 min |
| 4 | 2023-2024 Recap and Reflection <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff presented a summary recap of key IAC activities including the City of Seattle Tribal Nations Summit, Seattle Parks and Recreation Tribal Nations Gathering, Indigenizing Public Transit Design, and the Native Youth Listening Session. These events were coordinated in partnership with City departments and urban Native organizations. The IAC built political relationships through meetings with nine City Councilmembers, presentations at four City Council committee meetings, and budget and policy discussions with Councilmembers and City departments. The IAC build community relationship through engagements with six Tribal and urban Native groups. The IAC engaged in budget monitoring, developed policy priorities, completed a strategic planning process, developed a work plan, and created an annual report. • Member reflected on these activities including key learnings and challenges. Members reflected on the summit and gathering planning process and how the event was a positive and rare opportunity to engage in deeper relationship building with City partners. Members discussed support for the structure of the event and how it led to substantive conversation event in a short timeframe. Member discussed the historic importance of these event, especially the summit and gathering for Tribal governments to have opportunity to engage in intergovernmental relationships with | 45 min |

the City. Members expressed the importance of engaging Tribal governments from across Washington State and the power of relationship building with urban Native organizations that often serve Tribal citizens living in Seattle. Members reflected on the importance of creating inter-generational approaches to IAC events to ensure that the next generation of leaders is in the room and learning and growing with Tribal and urban Native partners. Members expressed gratitude to City partners for their willingness to engage and partner on IAC events and to seek guidance and feedback from the IAC and other Native partners.

- Members reflected on the role and structure of the IAC as a public commission. Members shared that thus far the IAC has been more virtue signaling and allowed for strong inter-tribal organizing to occur. Members shared the desire to be action-oriented, well staffed, and resourced by the City to ensure long-term sustainability for future cycles of IAC members to grow and sustain inter-tribal organizing at a local level.
- Members discussed the challenges of bandwidth for members and partners that continue to serve community and engaging policy and systems change work. Members discussed the ongoing challenges and protocols needs to ensure their effective engagement both as public commissioners and in their other roles in their communities.
- Members discussed support for the many Tribes, urban Indian organizations, and Indigenous groups that work with the City and how the IAC and play a unique role in elevating Tribal and urban Native priorities through policy and system changes and elevating Indigenous values into local government. Members discussed the how we all each hold a place in the circle. Members stressed the importance of knowing what the City has jurisdiction over to ensure IAC feedback is most impactful and relevant to City partners. Members discussed the importance of timing and awareness of other local to federal issues to maximize impact and influence with decisionmakers.

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| 5 | Strategy Breakout Session | 30 min |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members broke out into small groups to discuss strategies for activating committees. Groups discussed how committees have successfully been used to determine policy priorities. Scheduling has presented a significant challenge to activating standing committees, but committees, Tribal Caucus, and workgroups have been effective for specific tasks and timebound projects. Groups discussed that | |

committees offer important space for small group discussion, research, and idea formation that can be brought back to the full IAC for consideration.

- Small groups discussed the importance of information sharing with the general public and City partners the role and scope of the IAC. Members discussed the option of IAC spokespersons that can serve as a point of contact for community and City partners. Members discussed opportunities for community engagement and engagement with Tribal Councils to integrate more Indigenous priorities.
- Members identified communications support needs including communications and media training, factsheets, talking points, shared understanding of the origins of our work and collaborative approach to better tell the share the story and impact of this work.

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| 6 | Lunch | 60 min |
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| 7 | Landscape Scan | 60 min |
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- Members expressed the Seattle is shared place of interest for many Tribes and urban Native communities. Tribal and urban Native interest can take many forms including protection and enhancement of Tribal trust and treaty rights, cultural resource stewardships, direct services to American Indian and Alaska Native people, and inclusion and belonging through programs, services, and built and natural environments that are rooted in Indigenous values.
 - Members reflected on the long history Native organizing in and around Seattle that has led to more equitable approaches over time. Examples included urban Native organizing that resulted in urban Indian organizations gaining new contracts and partnerships with the City for homelessness prevention, response, and affordable housing. Members expressed the need to document and remember these histories of inter-tribal organizing to build on future organizing efforts. Members discussed the power of Tribal Nations to exercise sovereignty and self-determination. Members reflected on how to utilize Tribal sovereignty to influence changes in local government that advance equity among Native communities. Members reflected on the need for programs or roles similar to the IAC in other major cities nationwide. Member discussed the possibility of share about the IAC through regional Tribal organizations to model lessons learnt and best practices for City-Tribal relationships and inter-tribal organizing spaces.
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| 8 | Strategic Plan and Annual Workplan Updates | 75 min |
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- Members reviewed the six sections of the strategic plan. Members affirmed the continued relevancy of the strategic goals and discussed progress or shortcoming of each identified activity. Many activities included significant progress and others included identification of core challenges or were deemed no longer immediate relevant to IAC work. Members expressed that the strategic plan and annual work plan should be more narrowly tailored to the IAC policy priorities to drive greater impact and maximize group time and capacity.
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| 9 | Closing & Next Steps | |
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- Members shared updates on a few upcoming community events including summer programming through Rise Above, fisheries celebrations sponsored by the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation, and an overview of Yakama enterprises such as Yakama Farms and Yakama Power, and the King County's substance use disorder conference.
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