



# Minutes

## **Indigenous Advisory Council**

Friday, September 8, 2023

12:30 PM PST – 2:30 PM PST

**In-Person Meeting Location:** Seattle City Hall 600 4<sup>th</sup> 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, Councilmember Suzanne Sailto, Esther Lucero, Derrick Belgarde, Asia Tail, and Jaci McCormack

**Members Excused:** Vice Chair Donny Stevenson, Councilmember Jeremy Takala

**Guests:** Lisa Ciecko, Seattle Parks and Recreation/Green Seattle Partnership; Sarah Ballew, Headwater People Consulting; Shameka Gagnier, Futures Rising; Shanoa Pinkham, Na’ah Illahee Fund; and Shelly Vendiola, Na’ah Illahee Fund

**Items**

---

1 **Welcome and Opening Blessing**

---

2 **Approval of the Agenda**

- Approved without changes.

**Approval of the Minutes (August)**

- Approved without changes.
- 

**Green Seattle Partnership – Indigenous Land Stewardship Program**

- Introductions and presentation from Lisa Ciecko, Sarah Ballew, Shameka Gagnier, Shanoa Pinkham, and Shelly Vendiola on Indigenous land stewardship activities lead by Na’ah Illahee Fund, Futures Rising, and Green Seattle Partnership (GSP).
  - GSP is a public-private partnership between the City of Seattle, community groups and non-profits, businesses, schools, and thousands of volunteers. GSP works in 230 City parks and manages much of the City’s forested parklands, including tributaries of local watersheds.
  - GSP currently partners with 16 organizations to support land stewardship and restoration activities year round.
  - Since 2016, Na’ah Illahee Fund and GSP have partnered to lead land and water restoration activities, educational opportunities, and youth development on the lands and pond surrounding Daybreak Star Indian Cultural Center in Discovery Park. This partnership continues to grow and evolve and now includes an Indigenous Advisory Council to support site planning and a partnership with Futures Rising to offer youth programming and events for Native youth in the region. Goals for the site include creation of a traditional foods forest and restoration of the pond. The partnership planted 10,000 plants on the site in recent years, hosted a youth Gathering of Native Americans (GONA), hosted several youth trails and restoration summer programs, and provided outdoor preschool programming.
  - The GSP IAC identified five priorities for their work: 1) land restoration, protection of sacred sites, volunteer programming, plant harvesting, and monitoring and maintenance. They identified three barriers that have limited Tribal and urban Native engagement in this stewardship work: 1)
- 3 **40 min**
-

transportation, awareness of programming, and personal and familial health conditions.

- Building on the success of this partnership, GSP intends to expand to five additional sites located in and near areas of cultural importance to BIPOC communities – including South Park, Rainier Beach, Central District/Leschi, and Beacon Hill.
- Potential areas of collaboration include supporting long-term actions to identify and increase access to parklands among Tribal and urban Native people; engage Tribal Nations in new land stewardship partnerships and identification of spaces Tribes prioritize for restoration; joint advocacy of policy and funding priorities of mutual interest; Tribal partnerships to support language and educational opportunities among Tribal and urban Native people; collaboration on youth coalitions, community planting parties, and ocean to table activities; Advising on best practices to develop a GSP Tribal Consultation policy.

---

**Policy Priorities Discussion**

- |   |  |               |
|---|--|---------------|
| 3 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Group discussion on how the IAC will develop collective policy priorities. Members have access to an online survey of policy ideas that have emerged from the IAC and Tribal Nations Summit. Members are asked to rank these policy ideas to provide a baseline understand of what members are most interested in supporting.</li> <li>• The group discussed how to address emergent policy issues such as recent efforts to protection Culturally Modified Trees (CMT). Group agreed to send CMT policy discussion to Tribal Caucus for further review and consideration.</li> <li>• The group discussed using committees a way for subject matter experts to discuss policy issues and make recommendation on action to the full IAC. Actions by the full IAC may include: letter of support, advocacy meetings with City staff and elected leaders, and/or advocacy and advisement throughout legislative and administration policy development and implementation.</li> <li>• The group asked for some analysis of policy ideas to better understand political feasibility and potential timelines for actions. Desired to understand what are short-term priorities we could achieve and what are long-term priorities we will need to work on.</li> </ul> | <b>45 min</b> |
|---|--|---------------|

---

**Old Business**

Seattle City Light Climate Mitigation and Adaption Strategies

- |   |  |               |
|---|--|---------------|
| 4 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seattle City Light continues to develop a climate mitigation and adaption strategy update. Next step for urban Native engagement will include a focus group.</li> </ul> | <b>15 min</b> |
|---|--|---------------|
-



- Group discussion and question on Native land stewardship on SCL properties – example Greenline site in Skyway managed by Common Acre. Questions around how to better resource and support these programs.

Indigenous-led Sustainability Projects

- Tribal consultation notices have been sent by the Office of Sustainability and the Environment. Pending consultations outcomes, the IAC and Green New Deal Oversight Board will advise on funding recommendations for 2023.

City Hall Park

- Seattle Parks and Recreation (SPR) is preparing a Certificate of Approval for the Pioneer Square Historic Preservation Board in October. SPR staff will lead process and IAC will provide a letter of support.

---

5 **Member Announcements**

- Saturday, October 14 9am-1pm: [Seattle Indian Health Board's SpiritWalk and Warrior Run](#) **5 min**
- Francesca is contracting with Seattle Indian Health Board.

---

**Hybrid Public Comment**

- 6 Required public comment period for community members to speak to agenda items **10 min**
- No requests for public comment.

---

**Closing & Next Steps**

- 7
- July-September 2023 Quarterly Invoicing is due 10/31/23.
-