

**CITY OF ISSAQUAH  
City Council Special Meeting**

8:00 AM  
June 10, 2017

**MINUTES**

Issaquah Senior Center  
75 N.E. Creek Way

**COUNCIL AND ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL PRESENT**

*Councilmembers:*

Eileen Barber  
Mariah Bettise  
Stacy Goodman  
Tola Marts  
Mary Lou Pauly (*left at 3:50 PM*)  
Bill Ramos  
Paul Winterstein

*Administration/Staff:*

Fred Butler, Mayor  
Bob Harrison, City Administrator  
Emily Moon, Deputy City Administrator  
Autumn Monahan, Assistant to the City Administrator  
(*left at 10:15 AM*)  
Christine Eggers, City Clerk  
Bret Heath, Public Works Operations Director  
David Fujimoto, Sustainability Director  
Jeff Watling, Parks & Recreation Director  
Jennifer Olson, Finance Director  
John Traeger, Information Technology Manager  
Keith Niven, Development & Economic Development  
Director  
Lori Brown, Human Resources Director  
Scott Behrbaum, Police Chief  
Sheldon Lynne, Public Works Engineering Director

**CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Butler called the meeting to order at 8:07 AM.

**RETREAT AGENDA**

a) **Review Agenda and Opening Remarks**

*Presented by: City Administration and Council Leadership*

b) **City Financial Health Overview: Five-Year Forecast and Capital Investment Gaps**

*Presented by: Jen Olson, Finance Director*

Review of the June 10, 2017 Fiscal & Forecasting Resource Book [pages 7-39 of packet].

c) **Department presentations on current and five-year future status**

*Presented by: Department Directors*

Presentations included key take aways from each department [pages 41-62 of packet].

d) **Lunch**

e) **Envisioning Issaquah in 20 Years**

*Introduced by Emily Moon, Deputy City Administrator*

*Facilitated by Jen Davis Hayes, Economic Development Manager*

A summary of themes and 20-year vision statements is attached. Follow-up with council leadership will determine next steps, e.g. staff further grouping themes and vision statements into three basic categories:

- 1) Those for which we already show readiness and a good degree of alignment in our plans and actions.
- 2) Those for which we need to make adjustments in order to achieve.
- 3) Those that are bigger stretch goals that will need more conversations, more decision-making and much more planning to achieve.

f) **Council Onboarding**

*Facilitated by Emily Moon, Deputy City Administrator*

Council suggested an outline or checklist be drafted that may include a timeline for providing various education, training and/or mentoring touchpoints as well as opportunities for revisiting topics that require more depth.

g) **Staff support for City Council**

*Introduced by Stacy Goodman, Council President*

Council expressed various ideas and possible areas of support, e.g. council leadership, regional, research, questions and process.

h) **Adjournment**

Mayor Butler adjourned the meeting at approximately 4:00 PM.

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Christine Eggers, City Clerk

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Fred Butler, Mayor

# MOBILITY

## THEMES

Light Rail

Parking

Internal/Local Circulation

Commuter/Regional Traffic

Hill to Valley Connectivity

Mobility Options and Technology Solutions

Trails, Bikes and Pedestrians

## 20-YEAR VISION BASED ON THEMES – summarized from small group discussions

1. Light Rail: We will be able to say that preparations are well underway and plans for shuttles and rapid transit feeder routes have been established both for ease of access by residents and to address regional demand.
2. Parking: Additional parking capacity is available in the downtown area.
3. Internal/Local Circulation: Ring-roads provide for circulation on larger capacity streets using a combination of cars and transit, while a smaller “people mover” provides for circulation around the urban core. An in-city transit network improves circulation, as does additional overpasses or underpasses of I-90. Interstate 90 has a “lid,” enabling the creation of more transportation, recreation or other opportunities.
4. Commuter/Regional Traffic: Regional traffic is directed to certain roads, with clear access on local streets, improving flow, reducing friction and providing for pedestrian priority areas in downtown. Capacity improvements are made on State Route 900.
5. Hill to Valley Connectivity: Creative, iconic solutions are in place to connect the valley and hills of Issaquah, both for neighborhoods and recreational purposes.
6. Mobility Options and Technology Solutions: Technology-based solutions and improved availability of options make it easy to not own a car, and to use people-powered options more frequently. Services and goods are customer place-based rather than people going to goods. There are dramatic reductions in solo car travel modes and less car-oriented land.
7. Trails, Bikes and Pedestrians: A seamless, physically separate (not on-road) network allows people to get around in all directions by bike or foot. There are fun, creative and innovative experiences for bicyclists and pedestrians.

## FLIP CHART AND DISCUSSION NOTES

☺ = indicates a sticky dot tally vote

## LIGHT RAIL

Light rail. Parking for light rail is located on land next to I-90. Rapid bus transit pick-up from park n ride at 6 cities north/east/south/south east have an I-90 light rail stop.

Light rail with feeder services

Light rail is almost here – location decided and being prepped. Community shuttles provide easy access to all of Issaquah. 😊

## PARKING

Underground parking memorial field? 😊

Parking – more. Parking work with downtown business on putting hours on their parking to allow more evening parking

## CIRCULATION – INTERNAL / LOCAL

Ring road – vehicle/bus traffic has a route around the city that keeps them on capacity streets, flowing. (north and south of I90)

Underpass / overpass

In-city transit network

Internal transit

Small ring road – a circular route around the urban core / people mover – similar to the Central Issaquah task force recommendation. A circle route inside a larger car / bus circular route.

## MISCELLANEOUS

Broadband and virtual reality dramatically increases work at home.

## COMMUTER / REGIONAL TRAFFIC

Traffic flow – regional balance and reduced friction

Define regional vs local traffic

Focus / direct regional (pass-through) traffic on certain streets. Fewer cars on local streets.

Front street from creek south to sunset is pedestrian priority with low traffic volumes.

SR 900 is four lanes to Renton 😊

## HILL TO VALLEY

Funiculars from Grand Ridge, Talus, Highlands connect residents to the valley floor.

Connect Issaquah highlands with Issaquah-Juniper street stairs / path / escalator. 😊

## I90 LID

I-90 lid 😊😊😊😊😊😊😊😊😊😊

I-90 lid. Hide I-90

I-90 lid and train station.

Lid like Mercer Island I-90.

I-90 lid.

MOBILITY – OVERARCHING OUTCOMES

Safe, predictable, very efficient, clean, not geographically constrained 😊😊😊

OPTIONS & TECHNOLOGY SOLUTIONS

Self driving cars reduce peak congestion.

Makes it easy to not own a car. Helps people choose people-powered options. Understands retail / delivery world means goods come to us rather than we go to the goods. 😊😊

Drive alone mode split <20%

Car ownership is down. Car habitat cut by 75% 😊😊

TRAILS, BIKES & PEDS

Physically separate bike network in the CIP (e-bike spike demand).

Fully interconnected trails system.

Creative, innovative experiences for peds and cyclists. 😊

A seamless network for off road ways to get all directions (on foot or bike) 😊😊😊

# COMMUNITY SPACES, FACILITIES, RECREATION, ENVIRONMENT

## THEMES

Place-making

Significant Facilities: City Hall/Civic Campus and Aquatic Center

Lake Sammamish State Park

Outdoor Recreation and Connecting with Nature

Protection and Preservation of Our Natural Environment

## 20-YEAR VISION BASED ON THEMES – summarized from small group discussions

1. Place-making: We will have done a great job creating unique, comfortable, pride-filled, engaging, vibrant places in in our city parks, public spaces, along streets and virtually. These places will help physically and socially connect people and geographies in Issaquah.
2. Planning and Constructing Significant Facilities, e.g. City Hall/Civic Campus and Aquatic Center: We will have consolidated city offices into one building and provided community meeting spaces and a civic center for the community. The City has a full-scale, full-amenity aquatic center.
3. Lake Sammamish State Park: The state park is known as a destination and a jewel, featuring experiences and opportunities in passive and active recreation, entertainment, environmental education, music, and more.
4. Outdoor Recreation and Connecting with Nature: The City is widely known and highly-regarded for its variety and quantity of outdoor recreation opportunities (via City and other surrounding public lands) and the ability and ease to connect with and experience nature is highly prioritized.
5. Protection and Preservation of Our Natural Environment: Issaquah “held the line” on the Growth Management Act boundary and has invested in, preserved, restored and provided quality stewardship of its natural areas. The City, local businesses, and community members continue to be a climate champions, implementing solutions. Some of these outcomes were achieved through volunteer opportunities and community engagement.

## FLIP CHART AND DISCUSSION NOTES

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### PLACE-MAKING

- Town Square ☺☺☺☺☺☺☺☺
- Front Street. Great downtown gathering space, pedestrian focus, connected to all other areas ☺☺☺

- Community inspired events, activities and design, pps.org , light, quick, cheap, community involvements 😊
- Community Space, connection to Green Necklace- Piazza Style. Community spaces with trail, bike connectivity😊
- Issaquah connector/connections between neighborhoods 😊
- Spray Park, or more than one 😊
- Vibrant, quality parks 😊
- Tibbets Valley Park will be completely transformed from a suburban park to urban park
- Large Sports Complex
- Connected network of Valley Trails
- All Neighborhoods have a Neighborhood Park – all of these connected by trails
- Well-positioned Trailheads throughout the City connecting to Alps/Public lands 😊
- Community gathering places, meeting places
- We have a community living room (gathering, performance, showcase space) in our urban core
- Facilities reflect the community pride of ownership
- Clean and well maintained public spaces
- Something that sets Issaquah apart from Redmond/Bellevue
- Talus Piazza
- City App (virtual place-making) 😊
- Data Portals. Interactive place for delivery of Information 😊😊

#### CITY HALL/CIVIC CAMPUS

- Civic Center/City Hall/Meeting Spaces 😊😊😊😊😊😊😊😊
- Unified City Hall/Civic Campus
- Consolidated Government Offices. Campus

#### LAKE SAMMAMISH STATE PARK

- Better State Park Integration 😊
- Vibrant Lake Samm State Park
- Concert venue at Lake Samm State Park

#### AQUATIC CENTER

- Aquatic Center
- Outdoor Pool at Aquatic Center 😊😊

#### OUTDOOR RECREATION/CONNECTING WITH NATURE

- True Trail/Water “Necklace” around all of Issaquah. Safe bike routes – separated (6 dots)
- Lake Sammamish State Park recognized as the state jewel for experiences, environment, mixed use, and active recreation 😊😊😊

- Lake Sammamish State Park as destination – music venues, events, tourism, new all-weather fields 😊😊
- Trails and Open Spaces on Issaquah Creek
- Creek Walk – South Issaquah to Lake Samm State Park
- The Green Necklace as a trail system
- Mountains to Sound Trail through Issaquah – east to west 😊
- Tiger Mountain Summit Tram 😊😊😊
- THE place for outdoor recreation. We have everything in place to support that. Outdoor adventures / challenge courses 😊😊😊
- Trails and sidewalks with way more wayfinding
- Issaquah recognized nationally as the best urban hiking area in America
- Network of bike trails going to Redmond, Spokane, South KC, Seattle, and Tiger Trails, with Recreation businesses to support
- More programs and areas for young emerging mountain bikers

PROTECTION AND PRESERVATION OF OUR NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

- Open Spaces are preserved and restored. Issaquah holds the line on GMA 😊😊😊😊😊😊😊😊😊😊
- We have taken the long view and made tough choices and investments in stewardship and preservation. We are still known for and are getting great marks for quality environment and natural beauty 😊😊
- Streams enhanced and accessible. Mountains preserved 😊
- Open Space – Well maintained/managed without any noxious weeds 😊
- Calm / Open Space / Shared / Protected
- Protect, protect, protect
- A healthy, protected, accessible Issaquah Creek
- More restored habitat like at Confluence Park
- Healthy Forest
- Healthy Lake and Stream Aquifer
- Coordinated Volunteer efforts around environment – invasive plant removal, etc
- Increased opportunities for engagement with the community
- Bellevue College has Environmental Classes that use Alps and Creek as living Labs
- Businesses that work on solving Global Warming – EG, Alt Energy
- Local solutions to Climate are moving forward 😊

OTHER NOTES

- Recreation. All ages, all abilities, All-season, team and individual, community building
- Teens – More for Teens to do

Key questions from the discussion:

1. What Infrastructure is needed to support the outdoor recreation use we are seeking? Well-located Trailheads? Restrooms? A shuttle service?
2. What Maintenance and Operation resources are needed to support our vision for quality outdoor recreation spaces as well as vibrant public gathering spaces within our city?
3. In terms of creating a Creek Walk, how might we begin to take “bites” and begin to phase that long-term vision?
4. With outdoor recreation as a focus for our quality of life, what indoor recreation opportunities do we have now and into the future? (for example a bowling alley, family fun center, etc)
5. City Hall / Civic Campus – Where?

# POPULATION DIVERSITY AND CONNECTIVITY; ARTS AND CULTURE

## THEMES

City Organization Reflects Community

Future Community Diversity Embraced

Inclusive and Connected Neighborhoods

Art and Music Venues

Art Education Opportunities

## 20-YEAR VISION BASED ON THEMES – summarized from small group discussions

1. City Organization Reflects Community: Community diversity is represented in City workforce and formal and informal community leadership.
2. Future Community Diversity Embraced: Our community embraces, celebrates and supports its diversity.
3. Inclusive and Connected Neighborhoods: We have neighborhood centers and identities and residents that are informed and engaged.
4. Art and Music Venues: We have many community events, including outdoor opportunities to experience music and art.
5. Art Education Opportunities: The City will be home to an arts college and the general public will have many opportunities to be exposed to and learn about art.

## FLIP CHART AND DISCUSSION NOTES

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### CITY ORGANIZATION REFLECTS COMMUNITY

Flip chart notes:

- Diverse city workforce that is connected with community's multiple cultures and languages ☺☺☺☺
- Diversity represented in our community leadership (formal or not)

### FUTURE COMMUNITY DIVERSITY EMBRACED

- Our population will be much more diverse and younger and lower income average ☺☺☺
- Residents and businesses exude pride in and give steady support for our diversity
- Suburbanization of poverty

- Nationwide trend that will be coming to the City of Issaquah
- Multi-lingual
- Diversity and culture are celebrated
- Celebrate our diversity and our past but also inspires for future

### INCLUSIVE AND CONNECTED NEIGHBORHOODS

- Many neighborhood centers/identity 😊😊😊
- Community feels informed, engaged and believes it helps drive community decisions 😊
- Ensure connection with diverse community - inclusive and welcoming
- More houses of worship of all types
- Relaxed homey feel
- Access to trunk fiber giving fastest data in King County 😊

### ART AND MUSIC VENUES

- Outdoor concerts – Amphitheater 😊
- Concerts/events at Central Park Pad 4
- Shakespeare in the Park! 😊
- More open-air, public opportunities - take advantages of our natural beauty
- Stronger art community in downtown including more live performing art 😊
- Community events - P/P partnerships 😊😊
- Music venue 😊
- Bowling
- Build out of our Village Theater gem - tourism focus, great spaces around theatre
- Thriving arts/cultural scene in Old town
- Arts festivals 2x to 4x a month - right now they are car shows

### ART EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

- Arts academy - school year and summer 😊
- Arts college like Cornish or Savannah College of Art and Design will be here 😊😊😊
- Will meet the needs of the "millennial" generations of the time 😊
- Technology will display art/culture in innovative ways on structures and open areas
- Incorporated into everything and can change quickly
- Large space in Old Town for art focus - classes and displays
- The place for a variety of arts, both teaching and performance/production

# RETAIL; EMPLOYMENT & BUSINESS; CENTRAL ISSAQUAH PLAN AND VALLEY FLOOR

## THEMES

More opportunities for residents to work in Issaquah

Develop and leverage focus on health sector, sports medicine

Institution of higher learning

Local investment in real estate

Redevelopment and quality of place

## 20-YEAR VISION BASED ON THEMES – summarized from small group discussions

1. More opportunities for residents to work in Issaquah: The City will have created and adopted strategies to allow more residents to work in Issaquah, including facilitating home-based employment, start-ups, working class jobs and new corporate headquarters.
2. Develop and leverage focus on health sector, sports medicine: The City’s Innovative Partnership Zone will be flourishing and will provide employment and services opportunities for residents and Issaquah will be recognized as a leader in these areas.
3. The City will have attracted and secured an institution of higher learning within Issaquah.
4. Local investment in real estate will be a strength.
5. The City will have proactively influenced successful redevelopment, leading to high-quality, specialized places that residents and visitors enjoy.

## FLIP CHART AND DISCUSSION NOTES

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### MORE OPPORTUNITIES FOR RESIDENTS TO WORK IN ISSAQUAH

Home employment

- Expand fiber infrastructure throughout the City
- Review Home occupation ordinance & review against peer cities
- Continue work w/ PSE on power reliability

Start-ups

- Facilitate the creation of new office flex space
- Develop corporate/Chamber support network for start-up businesses
- Look for opportunities & locations for pop-up retail
- Create retail incubator opportunities

Working-class jobs

- Work with existing employers and seek out new employers to add employment opportunities that are in step with the City’s median home value.
- Increase minimum wage within the City

New corporate headquarters

- Work to attract new corporate headquarters to the City
- Adopt policies & strategies to accommodate the relocation/creation of corporate headquarters in the City

INSTITUTION OF HIGHER LEARNING

Bellevue College (BC)

- Running Start
- East Campus or Continuing Ed
- Create partnerships w/ Issaquah businesses
- “Living Lab” – environmental education

BC + Partner

- WSU or other
- Sports Medicine program
- Different program – leads to new cluster

Not BC

- Seattle U/Swedish (Sports Medicine)
- Cornish (Arts)
- Other established University/College

LOCAL INVESTMENT IN REAL ESTATE

- Small, local retail opportunities
- Seek out investors to purchase retail & commercial properties as they come available
- Discourage (possibly thru taxation) non-resident ownership of retail properties

REDEVELOPMENT AND QUALITY OF PLACE

Gilman Village

- Preserve the back part (historic homes)



- Facilitate & encourage the redevelopment of the Gilman frontage to include higher densities & residential
- Improve the relationship of this property with Issaquah Creek

The Commons

- Work with the property owner to facilitate redevelopment at a higher density (similar to University Village)



- Facilitate the inclusion of housing in the redevelopment plans

Creek Trail

- Squak Valley Park to Lake Sammamish
- Pedestrian, maybe bicycle

Determine Building Heights

- Figure out the “Right Size” scale for Issaquah
- Central Issaquah Plan: 4-6 or 5-10?
- Old Town: 2-3?

Create a car-free zone

- Could be in Old Town or CIP
- Similar to Pearl Street Mall (Boulder)



**FLIP CHART AND DISCUSSION NOTES**

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**EMPLOYMENT AND BUSINESS**

- Work/Affordable Housing = One
- Work from home using virtual reality
- National sports medicine leader ☺☺
- Corporate Headquarters ☺☺☺☺
- Locally-owned businesses are flourishing
- Fiber optic citywide provides for home-based employment
- Local business owners investing/locating here
- Start-up hub
- Energy Resiliency – Energize Eastside...or?
- Incredible IPZ for Sports Medicine (state renowned)
- IPZ buildout
- Health Care is the predominant business sector in Issaquah...World leader in Sports Medicine...think Vale x2
- Higher education opportunity
- Bellevue College campus
- Define Issaquah as a destination for...
- Families living in the hills work here, no rush hour traffic jams on I-90
- Employment + Business – more living wage jobs matching our cost of living

## CENTRAL ISSAQUAH AND VALLEY FLOOR

- Front Street redeveloped
- Lake Samm connection to Mixed Use housing north of I-90
- Lake Samm improvements to provide greater opportunities (e.g. ADA, etc.)
- Vibrant & livable – a place people and businesses want to be 😊😊
- A cool place with a dramatic public project/area (Anchor project)
- Net zero energy + water, buildings are common
- I-90 much less of a community divisor
- Central Issaquah's first redevelopment phase is complete and buildings 4-5 stories occupy the majority of the valley floor
- Develop Lid – put central park on lid 😊😊
- Creek trail (Squak Valley Park to Lake Sammamish State Park 😊😊😊😊)
- Restaurants open past 9:00, music, fun, lots of events
- CIP will have a variety of medium height buildings
- Issaquah boundaries will likely grow to the south, likely to Hwy 18 off Hobart; and, to 164<sup>th</sup> off SR900
- Rejuvenated Gilman Village 😊
- Front Street redeveloped
- Eliminate all vehicles except transit
- Car-free zone in Central Issaquah 😊😊😊
- Close Front Street for events like Art Walk
- CIP – small part has been redeveloped, a few multi-family/townhome/condo projects nicely placed
- Olde Town residences still charm of "Craftsman" homes – limit to 2 stories w/ a few new ones slowly replacing older ones in need of repair.

## RETAIL

- Most big boxes close, small specialty retail grows
- Continue to provide opportunities for residents to get local-only goods 😊
- Insure that customers can access in non-motorized ways
- Thriving small businesses (non franchise) community in all sectors: retail/service/food, etc. 😊
- Minimum wage above poverty for retail workers 😊
- Most retailers will be on-line sales
- Issaquah must provide a variety of experiences so that what retail survives will be supported
- Redeveloped Commons in the form of U Village 😊😊😊
- Community-based, shared, small
- Diversity of retail: size & type, reflective of "Issaquah"
- More variety of smaller retail businesses
- Retail – small scale, matches diverse needs & cultures 😊
- Specialized destination retail/boutique shops 😊😊😊😊😊😊😊😊

# SAFETY AND BASIC NEEDS

## THEMES

Affordable Housing

Human Services

Public Safety

Health Care

## 20-YEAR VISION BASED ON THEMES – summarized from small group discussions

1. Affordable Housing: Is integrated and dispersed throughout our community and available for those of all income levels who work in Issaquah, so they can live here and be successful contributors to our community. Housing targets were set and achieved.
2. Human Services: Robust, easy-to-access, community-driven, coordinated services are available in Issaquah and our area.
3. Public Safety: Issaquah is a safe community. Public safety is right-sized for our community and neighborhoods/community members take an ownership role in our safety. Water treatment plant has been constructed.
4. Health care: Is accessible to all and includes all facets; we are achieving better health outcomes than today.

## FLIP CHART AND DISCUSSION NOTES

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### AFFORDABLE HOUSING

General discussion comments:

- Affordable Housing
- Workforce supportive -work and live here
- Blended and dispersed throughout the city / not segregated
- Code – clear, concise and defined language of housing targets

Flip chart notes:

- Housing is such that all types of individuals and families can live here ☺☺
- Issaquah doing our fair share w partners to assure basic needs met – local and regional
- Affordable housing – living wage
- Redeveloped Olde Town to include single family cottage homes ☺☺
- Workers live here, exits 15, 17 and 18 are uncrowded at rush hour
- All residents have housing and supportive services to help them reach their full potential and contribute to the community ☺☺
- Affordable housing – higher level – integrated in all areas, not separated ☺☺☺☺

- Homelessness eliminated
- Affordable housing stock = the number of employees in city limit at 75% of median income or less 😊😊
- More options of affordable/workforce housing across all income levels 😊😊😊😊

## HUMAN SERVICES

General discussion comments:

- Robust Community driven human services
- Coordinated and centralized services – human services campus
- Community coordinated care
- Engaged and connected with regional partners
- 24 hour services and doing our part within region

Flip chart notes:

- Human services campus – one stop for all needs 😊😊
- Coordinated human services community taking care of folks needs
- More focus on getting people connected with resources needed
- Food bank expansion

## PUBLIC SAFETY

General discussion comments:

- Promote neighborhood / community ownership
- Right Sized public safety (police and fire) for our community
- Construct water treatment plant

Flip chart notes:

- Safe community
- A strong police and fire departments – proper staffing
- Crime levels are low, in part because people care for & look after each other
- Water treatment plant 😊😊

## HEALTH CARE

General discussion comments:

- Health care accessible to all regardless of income, age, demographic, etc.
- Increased access / innovative access – virtual / walk up / in home
- Health care includes medical, mental health, substance etc.
- Open dialogue about community needs – reduce stigma

Flip chart notes:

- Senior living communities that focus on getting out into the outdoors/ Issaquah Alps
- Virtual doctors for routine healthcare issues
- Best healthcare options (breadth & depth) in King County 😊
- Community norms/values reduce stigma around mental health care for wellness
- More behavior health services operating in Issaquah 😊😊😊
- Healthcare –accessible to all and better outcomes across the board 😊😊😊😊😊😊😊😊