

**CITY OF ISSAQUAH
Environmental Board**

6:00 PM
June 6, 2024

Tibbetts Manor, 750 17th Ave.
NW, Issaquah

MINUTES

BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL PRESENT

Board members:

Don McQuilliams, Chair
Alix Lee-Tigner, Vice Chair
Jamie Finch
Nancy Davidson, *Excused Absence*
Prajakta Ghatpande
Tom Anderson
Dixie Bair
Kiran Pan*
Mina Jun*

Keith Gonzalez, Alternate, *Excused Absence*
Anne Newcomb, Alternate
Jon Smith, Alternate

Administration/Staff:

Stacy Vynne McKinstry, Sustainability
Manager
David Reedy, Sustainability Coordinator
Robin Spears, Park Planner
Dan Hintz, Urban Forest Manager

Zoe Dearing, Sustainability Ambassadors
Siena Gould, Sustainability Ambassadors

Alex Ozkan, UW Evans graduate student
Anthonyne Metelus, UW Evans graduate
student
Caitlyn Barrera, UW Evans graduate student
Sydney Romero, UW Evans graduate student

*Youth/young adult members.

CALL TO ORDER

Board Chair DON MCQUILLIAMS called the meeting to order at 6:15 PM.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Chair introduced the minutes, which were included in the agenda materials. The minutes were approved as presented by unanimous consent.

- a) Minutes of May 8, 2024

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Written comments were submitted by CONNIE MARSH and ANN FLETCHER on the Mid Point ICAP Check In Report.

ANN FLETCHER made comments on the Mid Point ICAP Check In Report.
DAN KAPPLER made comments on the Park Plan.

AGENDA ITEMS

- a) **Park Plan Update (D)**
Presented by:
Robin Spears, Park Planning and Development Manager

ROBIN SPEARS Presented on the Park Plan Update and sought input on the Creeks to Peaks concept statement. This concept is meant to replace the Green Necklace to be more inclusive. Board members provided feedback on concept statement drafts for Creeks to Peaks. Board Member FINCH asked about the prioritization of tree canopy in the Park Plan. Board Member ANDERSON asked about the incorporation of multi modal connectivity within parks and on streets.

b) Student Project Updates - Gibson Ek High School and Sustainability Ambassadors (I)

Presented by:
Zoe Dearing, Student
Siena Gould, Student

SIENA GOULD and ZOE DEARING presented on work they have completed as interns with the City as well as with Sustainability Ambassadors.

Board Members NEWCOMB and GHATPANDE asked questions about the details of work presented by the students and the relationship between the Sustainability Ambassadors and the City. Board Member SMITH encouraged them in the work they are doing.

c) Evans School Presentation on Carbon Sequestration Research (I, D)

Presented by:
UW Evans School Graduate Students

DAVID REEDY introduced the UW Evans School Graduate Students and their research related to tree canopy programs for Issaquah.

UW Evans School Graduate Students presented their Carbon Sequestration Research, including their approach, research results, and recommendations.

Board Member BAIR asked how invasive versus native plants were incorporated into the study. Board Member FINCH suggested staff complete additional research on carbon sequestration payments for private property. Board Member ANDERSON asked why only deciduous trees were included in the list of trees that was provided and how the geospatial aspect of the report was involved. Board Member SMITH pointed out that there may be opportunity to focus on expanding tree canopy in commercial areas and described a tree planting program completed in the Seattle Central District. Board Member NEWCOMB appreciated the recommended programs and their potential impact and added a few suggestions for how the tree program could be more expansive. Board Member LEE TIGNER offered additional suggestions to benefit the program. Board Member GHATPANDE asked a few clarifying questions and offered suggestions from her own experience on how to get people more engaged with tree planting. Board Member BAIR suggested that businesses throughout Issaquah should be incorporated into the tree giveaway programs to get the word out. Board Member MCQUILLIAMS shared his experience with tree giveaway programs in other jurisdictions and supported BAIR'S comment.

Staff will take the recommendations from the study, along with additional research, to consider whether a tree coupon, tree giveaway, or other tree canopy related incentive program is appropriate for Issaquah.

d) ICAP Mid Point Check In Revised Presentation & Budget Overview (D)

Presented by:
Stacy Vynne McKinstry, Sustainability Manager

VYNNE MCKINSTRY presented an overview of the revised version of the ICAP Mid Point Check In and asked for feedback.

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Board Member MCQUILLIAMS noted that he appreciated the effort put into the presentation and the focus on making changes that were asked for by the Board. Board Member FINCH shared that he found the order confusing and made suggestions on how to have a clearer message. Board Member BAIR suggested how to have a stronger start to the presentation. Board Member NEWCOMB shared positive feedback on the presentation.

VYNNE MCKINSTRY provided a brief overview of budgeting timeline and process for the City.

REPORTS

Youth Report – There was no Youth Report given the work reported on by the students and representatives from Sustainability Ambassadors.

Because of time, other reports were not provided verbally but a written update was provided to Board members after the meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS / ANNOUNCEMENTS**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:28 PM.

INQUIRIES