

**CITY OF ISSAQUAH
Environmental Board**

6:00 PM
December 11, 2024

Tibbetts Manor, 750 17th Ave.
NW, Issaquah

MINUTES

BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL PRESENT

Board members:

Don McQuilliams, Chair
Alix Lee-Tigner, Vice Chair – excused
absence
Nancy Davidson – excused absence
Mina (Alexandra) Jun* - excused absence
Prajakta Ghatpande
Dixie Bair – excused absence
Tom Anderson
Jamie Finch
Kiran Pan*
Anne Newcomb
Keith Gonzalez
Jonathan Smith

Administration/Staff:

Stacy Vynne McKinstry, Sustainability
Manager
David Reedy, Sustainability Coordinator
Sam Tarvin, Solid Waste Program Analyst
Evan Brumfield, Environmental & Regulatory
Program Manager

*Youth/young adult members.

CALL TO ORDER

CHAIR MCQUILLIAMS called the meeting to order at 6:34 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 November 13, 2024

PUBLIC COMMENTS

AGENDA ITEMS

- a) **2025 Solid Waste Initiatives (D)**
Presented by:
Samantha Tarvin, Solid Waste Analyst

TARVIN presented priorities and goals of the solid waste program, discussed the implementation of the Recology contract, highlighted the 2025 solid waste workplan, and briefed the board on potential new policies. Responding to Board Member questions, TARVIN provided additional details about the implementation of the Recology contract and existing and upcoming recycling audits of commercial properties. Board Members GONZALEZ, SMITH, and NEWCOMB discussed opportunities for the City to partner with specialty recycling firms to fill waste diversion gaps.

TARVIN answered questions related to waste data and measurement of waste diversion and explained that the City is working with Recology and other partners to better identify options for more accurate data. Board Members provided feedback on the 2025 workplan, including an interest in adult education, business education, new policies with enforcement mechanisms, and programs such as clothing swaps and tool libraries. Board Member PAN asked the City to focus on education related to composting and food waste in addition to recycling education.

b) **Wildlife Co-Existence (D)**

Presented by:

Jamie Finch, Board Member

Stacy Vynne McKinstry, Sustainability Manager

Board Member FINCH discussed concerns relating to wildlife getting into trash and asked the City to consider additional action to address this issue. VYNNE MCKINSTRY provided information related to existing City efforts and coordination with programs including Coexisting with Carnivores. Following board discussion, the Board expressed interest in incorporating wildlife co-existence programs and policies into the Environmental Board workplan for 2025. Staff will identify opportunities to bring this issue to the board in more detail in 2025 with options for feedback on existing and potential programs and policies.

c) **2025-2026 Sustainability Budget (I)**

Presented by:

Stacy Vynne McKinstry, Sustainability Manager

VYNNE MCKINSTRY provided a high-level summary of the Sustainability Budget priorities in the 2025 – 2026 biennium. Board Member FINCH was interested in land acquisition and the ways it connects with wildlife support and requested that this topic be discussed with the Environmental Board. In response to Board Member questions, VYNNE MCKINSTRY provided insight into the budget balancing process and the ways that the Sustainability Fund and broader City budget were impacted by budget cuts. VYNNE MCKINSTRY also explained the ways that the City partners with PSE on funding programs and potential ways that the funding landscape could change over the next biennium.

d) **2024 Annual Report (A)**

Presented by:

Stacy Vynne McKinstry, Sustainability Manager

VYNNE MCKINSTRY walked through the annual report and asked for any feedback or changes that Board Members would like to make before it is submitted to Council. Board Member FINCH asked for the addition of Urban Forest Management Plan language into the report and memo. Following the addition of language relating to the Urban Forest Management Plan, Board Member FINCH recommended, and Board Member GHATPANDE seconded, that the Board vote to approve the annual report. The Environmental Board unanimously approved sending the letter with updated language relating to the Urban Forest Management Plan to Council.

e) **2025 Draft Environmental Board Workplan (A)**

Presented by:

Stacy Vynne McKinstry, Sustainability Manager

VYNNE MCKINSTRY walked through the 2025 Draft Environmental Board Workplan and noted changes from the previous version. Board Chair MCQUILLIAMS recommended that the Board engage with topics relating to coexisting with wildlife early in 2025. Board Member SMITH asked whether there were additional opportunities to engage with the Urban Forest Management Plan.

VYNNE MCKINSTRY discussed the option of forming Environmental Board Committees. Board Chair MCQUILLIAMS asked board members to consider whether this is something they would be interested in. Staff will bring the option of board committees back to the Environmental Board in January 2025.

REPORTS

OTHER BUSINESS / ANNOUNCEMENTS

VYNNE MCKINSTRY summarized Board Member JUN'S youth report including information on a clothing swap, outreach for the heat pump campaign, and the featuring of the Issaquah School District proposed sustainability policy in a newsletter.

REEDY noted the ICAP dashboard had been updated and highlighted some of the changes.

VYNNE MCKINSTRY mentioned that the City signed a contract to move forward with a Solarize Campaign.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:31 PM.

INQUIRIES