

**CITY OF ISSAQUAH
Environmental Board**

6:30 PM
January 8, 2025

MINUTES

Tibbetts Manor, 750 17th Ave.
NW, Issaquah

BOARD RAND ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL PRESENT

Board members:

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

Administration/Staff:

Stacy Vynne McKinstry, Sustainability
Manager
David Reedy, Sustainability Coordinator
Sam Tarvin, Solid Waste Analyst
Dan Hintz, Urban Forest Supervisor
Aronia McLean, Office Assistant
Mary Lou Pauly, Mayor

Anne Newcomb, Alternate
Keith Gonzalez, Alternate
Jonathan Smith, Alternate

*Youth/young adult members.

CALL TO ORDER

CHAIR MCQUILLIAMS called the meeting to order at 6:30 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 December 11, 2024

PUBLIC COMMENTS

AGENDA ITEMS

- a) **Wildlife Coexistence (D, A)**

Presented by:

Dan Hintz, Urban Forest Supervisor

Sam Tarvin, Solid Waste Analyst

Stacy Vynne McKinstry, Sustainability Manager

VYNNE MCKINSTRY introduced the topic of Wildlife Coexistence and provided a brief overview of how the board would be able to move this topic forward following this meeting. HINTZ provided an overview of the work the City is doing regarding wildlife coexistence and highlighted the Coexistence with Carnivore program in collaboration with the Woodland Park Zoo. This work includes monitoring wildlife use of parks and open spaces in addition to community education presentations focused on wildlife. HINTZ also discussed the work of the Issaquah Park Ranger regarding public education.

Board Members ANDERSON and NEWCOMB asked for more information regarding existing and potential fines for feeding wildlife. HINTZ and VYNNE MCKINSTRY elaborated on state laws but noted that we do not have a mechanism to fine anyone when an instance of bears getting into trash is reported. Board Member FINCH asked for more information related to the City's efforts to engage Recology on this topic. TARVIN highlighted the development of a brochure and the opportunity to engage Recology as an outreach partner. Board Members JUN, DAVIDSON, and SMITH asked for details on educator resources, curriculum for schools, and other outreach budget and opportunities for community members and businesses. HINTZ provided a summary of known educator resources that Woodland Park Zoo has put together as well as existing City education resources. HINTZ noted that the City leans on partners but does not have specific budget line items related to community education on this topic. TARVIN noted that the City will follow-up with specific businesses based on concerns raised by the Environmental Board.

Board Members DAVIDSON and GONZALEZ expressed support for addressing the issues of bears getting into trash; however, wanted to expand the focus of wildlife coexistence efforts to other wildlife.

VYNNE MCKINSTRY provided an overview of the research conducted in local government policies related to wildlife in waste. All Board Members agreed that they would like to write a board letter to Council regarding immediate opportunities on this topic in addition to expressing interest in developing a more robust policy. Board Members ANDERSON, SMITH, LEE-TIGNER, and DAVIDSON provided recommendations on the direction of potential policies as well as specific opportunities for community outreach.

VYNNE MCKINSTRY noted that staff will work with a subset of the board to develop a letter to City Council expressing the Board's interest in moving this topic forward.

b) Q&A with Mayor Pauly

Presented by:

Stacy Vynne McKinstry, Board Liaison/Sustainability Manager

Mayor PAULY answered the below questions that were submitted prior to the meeting by Environmental Board Members.

- What are your and Council's priorities for the Env Board for 2025 and going forward?
- When you think about the environment and sustainability what do you think is the most impactful focus area for the city in the next several years?
- Our city and community are working towards electrification and green energy. Some Board members are concerned about the impact to the grid. Can you speak to how the City is working with PSE to increase capacity and improve grid reliance?
- What are the environmental-related questions that are top of her list to ask potential new mayoral candidates that might be seeking her endorsement?
- How do you believe the tree canopy increases in Title 18 and increased density will fit together? Do you believe our current approach is going to be workable?
- How can the Board best engage on issues related to the wildlife – what are existing elements and where do we have policy options?
- The City's 2044 Comprehensive Plan has an emphasis on Environment and Climate Stewardship. Who is responsible for leading the effort to address the policies regarding Environmental Stewardship and what programs or studies are being developed?
- Can you share how the city engages in the legislative session and what we might expect for this upcoming session.

Following the initial set of answers, Board Member ANDERSON asked how Issaquah stands out compared to nearby cities. Mayor Pauly noted that Issaquah stands out in Salmon protection and climate action. Board Members GHATPANDE, NEWCOMB, and DAVIDSON asked for clarification on Issaquah's relationship with PSE. Mayor PAULY shared additional thoughts on PSE and the City's relationship with the utility. Board Member DAVIDSON asked if the City is prepared to respond to further climate

emergencies such as the bomb cyclone or wildfire. Mayor PAULY highlighted additional climate resilience efforts currently being pursued to support the community.

c) **2026 Climate Action Plan Update (I)**

Presented by:

Stacy Vynne McKinstry, Sustainability Manager

David Reedy, Sustainability Coordinator

VYNNE MCKINSTRY provided an overview of the proposed 2026 ICAP update process. Board Members GHATPANDE, DAVIDSON, and FINCH asked for clarification on the implementation timeline, consulting support, and past analysis of the existing Climate Action Plan. VYNNE MCKINSTRY noted that the City was working with Cascadia Consulting on this work and would be analyzing the current ICAP as well as the Climate Action Plans of nearby cities during the update process.

VYNNE MCKINSTRY noted that staff would finish the presentation on the Climate Action Plan update in February given time constraints.

REPORTS

VYNNE MCKINSTRY shared reports and other announcements via e-mail after the meeting.

- Home Equipment and Appliance Rebate
- Environmental Board 2025 Workplan

OTHER BUSINESS / ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:32 PM.

INQUIRIES