

**CITY OF ISSAQUAH
Environmental Board**

6:30 PM
November 12, 2025

Tibbetts Manor, 750 17th Ave.
NW, Issaquah

MINUTES

BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL PRESENT

Board members:

Don McQuilliams, Chair
Alix Lee-Tigner, Vice Chair
Nancy Davidson
Mina (Alexandra) Jun*
Prajakta Ghatpande
Tom Anderson
Keith Gonzales
Kiran Pan* - excused absence
Tommy DuBeau

Administration/Staff:

Stacy Vynne McKinstry, Sustainability
Manager
David Reedy, Sustainability Coordinator
Dan Hintz, Urban Forest Supervisor

Anne Newcomb, Alternate
Jonathan Smith, Alternate

*Youth/young adult members.

CALL TO ORDER

CHAIR MCQUILLIAMS called the meeting to order at 6:33 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 October 8, 2025

PUBLIC COMMENTS

ANN FLETCHER, JULIE CARR, and DAVID KAPPLER shared about the 12 Critical City Climate Actions developed by the People for Climate Action and urged the Environmental Board to advocate for these policies in the ICAP update process.

CONNIE MARSH shared feedback to the Environmental Board and the City regarding the importance for people to care about the environment. MARSH encouraged the City to use simple language that is understandable in all communications to make climate and environmental work more accessible and welcoming.

AGENDA ITEMS

- a) **Urban Forest Program Update (I)**
Presented by:
Dan Hintz, Urban Forest Supervisor

HINTZ provided a summary of the Issaquah Urban Forestry program and the implementation progress of the Urban Forest Management Plan over the last year. HINTZ shared current conditions of the Issaquah urban forest, the vision and recommendations for the future, and the plan implementation and monitoring frameworks. HINTZ covered specific programs including the Tree Giveaway program, Tradition Plateau management, and Tree Canopy & Inventory Assessments. HINTZ also highlighted Green Issaquah accomplishments, tree planting work, and the Park Ranger program.

BOARD MEMBER ANDERSON asked if any of the principles in the Tradition Plateau forest management plan will be focused on fire risk mitigation. HINTZ noted that staff are working with Eastside Fire and Rescue (EFR) and King County to prepare for fire risk on Issaquah public and private lands. HINTZ cautioned about the comparison between East Cascade forest management practices and West Cascade forest management practices based on historic fire trends and restoration measures. Board Member ANDERSON asked staff to consider ladder fuel management to reduce fire risk based on examples in the Bend area. Board Member ANDERSON also asked how the City plans to balance the needs of wildfire prevention and tree canopy goals. HINTZ stated a desire to update the preferred tree list to incorporate information on climate risk and the importance of tree planting in the right places. Board Member ANDERSON asked staff to develop a more robust education program to support resident tree planting.

Board Member NEWCOMB asked how staff are providing resources on tree planting best practices during giveaway events. HINTZ noted that EFR resources and other resources are linked on the Tree Giveaway webpage and would be provided to program participants. Board Member NEWCOMB asked what it would take to get to 55% tree canopy cover. HINTZ explained how tree planting implementation will be able to help the City get to this goal and highlighted that roughly 300 acres of tree planting is necessary to reach the 55% tree canopy goals.

Board Member DAVIDSON asked if staff can begin a tree inventory based on the existing tree planting programming and asked for staff to work with partner organizations and community members to support Tree Planting 101 programming. HINTZ stated that the Forest Steward model has worked well and staff would like to grow that model to tree planting 101.

b) Considerations for ICAP Update (D)

Presented by:

Stacy Vynne McKinstry, Sustainability Manager/Board Liaison

VYNNE MCKINSTRY shared progress on the ICAP update process and summarized feedback provided from the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) and the Parks Board. After presenting reflections from TAB and the Parks Board, VYNNE MCKINSTRY asked for Environmental Board thoughts on the reflections and input.

Board Member DAVIDSON asked for clarification on the recommendation to reduce parking minimums. VYNNE MCKINSTRY noted that the recommendation from TAB was regarding reducing parking minimums at multifamily facilities. Board Member DAVIDSON asked for staff to consider reducing parking minimums on a case-by-case basis to ensure that no reductions were made in neighborhoods or locations that do not have access to adequate transit. Board Member DAVIDSON also asked for staff to share feedback heard from community members on transportation related items heard from public events. Board Chair MCQUILLIAMS and Board Members ANDERSON, GONZALEZ, and NEWCOMB expressed support for Metro Flex and asked staff to explore opportunities for additional intra city transit such as additional bus routes or shuttles and to explore funding opportunities through the Climate Commitment Act.

Board Member GHATPANDE supported the concept of expanding EV infrastructure but expressed concern for going to 100% EV ready in multi-family buildings based on electric capacity limitations. Board Member NEWCOMB noted that it makes sense to support EV charging infrastructure in multifamily facilities.

Board Member DAVIDSON was supportive of the Park Board recommendations and clarified that dark sky ordinances should focus on building and business light pollution as opposed to light pollution in parks.

Board Member NEWCOMB expressed support for invasive species management from a climate lens as well as support for community gardens. VYNNE MCKINSTRY noted that the Park Board specifically had noted the importance of tackling invasives on private property through education. Board Member GHATPANDE and NEWCOMB asked if there are any education programs specifically focused on invasive species and encouraged the City to explore opportunities to educate private residents on this issue. HINTZ responded that there are existing education programs such as King County Noxious Weeds but that additional opportunities exist that the City can connect to. Board Member SMITH asked staff to consider regulations or programs to limit artificial turf installation.

VYNNE MCKINSTRY highlighted feedback and suggestions on methods to deal with redundant actions in the ICAP from both boards. TAB and the Park Board expressed support for redundancy in City plans with a focus on a climate lens to redundant actions to show support for the Snoqualmie Tribe input and to show that actions can support multiple City goals. Board Member SMITH asked for a review of ICAP action wording to ensure that the ICAP is consistent with other City functional plans. Board Member GHATPANDE asked for staff to consider the staff time and budget needs to keep redundant actions. Board Chair MCQUILLIAMS noted that redundant actions can lead to stronger budget requests. Additionally, Board Chair MCQUILLIAMS recommended that redundant actions kept are not exactly the same across plans but have different angles on similar topics to ensure that there is a lead agency on any individual action.

VYNNE MCKINSTRY introduced the concept of a longer plan timeline of 10 years with a check-in at Year 5 to remove or add actions only. Additionally, VYNNE MCKINSTRY noted that staff have heard the importance of regular check in points and trigger points for updates. Board Member ANDERSON asked for a shorter timeframe for the ICAP update, but was okay if there was an interim check-in from the Environmental Board. Board Member MCQUILLIAMS asked for the inclusion of opportunities for self-adjustment along the way on a longer plan.

Based on a question from Board Member DAVIDSON, VYNNE MCKINSTRY noted that the goal adoption date for the ICAP Update is June 2026.

c) **Annual Report and Self Analysis Draft (D)**

Presented by:

Stacy Vynne McKinstry, Sustainability Manager/Board Liaison

David Reedy, Sustainability Coordinator

VYNNE MCKINSTRY and REEDY summarized the annual board report and high level takeaways from the Environmental Board Self Analysis. No changes were recommended and Board members supported the proposed additional components to the report. Staff will bring the final draft for Board approval in December.

REPORTS

- a) Sustainable Building and Infrastructure Policy: Feedback from Mobility and Infrastructure Committee

REEDY highlighted the feedback on the Sustainable Building and Infrastructure Policy from the Mobility and Infrastructure Committee.

OTHER BUSINESS / ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:37 PM.

INQUIRIES