

CITY OF ISSAQUAH
Equity Board

6:00 PM
February 7, 2024

MINUTES

Steelhead Room, 235 1st Ave.
SE, Issaquah

BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL PRESENT

Board members:

Cristina Abonce (virtual attendee, 7:05PM)
Lucrecia Choto (virtual attendee, 6:40PM)
Tony Curry (excused absence)
Varnika Dokka (excused absence)
Shalanda Fleming (virtual attendee)
Lorna Gilmour (absent, excused)
Karthik Kashinath
Ray Manahan
Priti Mody-Pan
Kelly Munn (excused absence)

Administration/Staff:

Dale Markey-Crimp, Assistant to the City
Administrator
David Reedy, Sustainability Coordinator
Jeff Watling, Parks and Community Services
Director
Brian Berntsen, Parks and Community
Services Manager

You may join the meeting in-person at the address above, or virtually using the following options:

Join by Computer

- Microsoft Teams [meeting link](#)
- Meeting ID: 236 456 431 769
- Meeting Password: KKaUyr

Join by Phone

- Call 1-206-485-0299, enter Phone Conference ID: 246 660 770#

If planning to make verbal comments, please email dalemc@issaquahwa.gov. Submit written comments to equityboard@issaquahwa.gov.

CALL TO ORDER

Equity Board Chair Priti Mody-Pan called the meeting to order at 6:08 PM

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Lindsey Pinkston from the Issaquah Highlands Council (IHC) invited Equity Board members to join for upcoming events hosted by the IHC including a Nowruz celebration on Sunday, March 10, 2024 and ongoing gallery exhibition entitled Zan-E-Rooz (Women of Today) featuring local Persian artists. Pinkston also highlighted other IHC hosted events that can be found on [their website](#) and are open to all community members.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a) Minutes of January 10, 2024 Special Meeting
The Minutes of the January 10, 2024 Special Meeting were unanimously approved without edits.

OPENING

a) **Opening Process***Presented by:**Ray Manahan, Equity Board Member*

The board members present and staff liaison all answered the question: When was a conversation around equity came up in your life in the past month since we last met?

STAFF REPORTa) **Update on Actions Taken at January 2024 Meeting***Presented by:**Dale Markey-Crimp, Assistant to the City Administrator*

Assistant to the City Administrator Markey-Crimp shared an update on the impact of Equity Board conversation in January. Markey-Crimp shared the impact of the conversation in reshaping the Equity Board 2024 Work Plan to include consulting on a way of building a more equitable budget process for the 2025-2026 Biennial Budget and an exploration of the City's approach to data, specifically demographic data collection that could support the city in making more informed policy decisions with these details about the city's population at the center. Markey-Crimp also shared gratitude from Deputy Council President de Michele, thanking the Equity Board for their contributions to the City's recently adopted Religious and Cultural Calendar.

AGENDA ITEMSa) **Resilience Hubs***Presented by:**David Reedy, Sustainability Coordinator*

Sustainability Coordinator Reedy provided an update on the Sustainable Purchasing Plan, sharing that it was approved by the Senior Leadership Team this week. Reedy provided a presentation on Resilience Hubs—trusted physical locations around the city where community members can convene, connect, and access services that support community members basic needs during times of emergencies and non-emergencies. Reedy shared that the City has been awarded a Solar Plus Storage Grant, which will support solar energy at some resilience hub sites. The City is currently working on determining where hubs will be sited. Reedy asked for feedback on the goals for resilience hubs. The Equity Board provided feedback on goals, namely the use of the term “multicultural families,” asking staff to revisit this phrasing and consider the intention behind its use. The Equity Board also provided feedback on criteria for prioritizing and siting resilience hubs, asking questions to ensure considerations for geography and the needs of particular constituent groups are considered within overarching criteria shared.

b) **Equity Framework: High Demand Recreation Program Registration Pilot***Presented by:**Jeff Watling, Parks & Community Services Director**Brian Berntsen, Parks & Community Services, Recreation Manager*

The Parks and Recreation Team returned to share an update on their rethinking of the recreation registration process. Staff shared that they now have a longer timeline for rethinking this process. The first phase will focus on greater equality of access for Issaquah residents by focusing on increasing capacity for high demand programs, making registration easier for Issaquah residents, and focused marketing and outreach to prioritized groups. Added capacity will include a Spanish immersion camp, a new 5th-7th grade camp, and the addition of 10 spots per week in pre-existing camps. Director Watling and Manager Berntsen shared a change to the camp and swim lesson registration process to provide a longer window of registration time

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that prioritizes Issaquah residents. The Equity Board advised staff to come up with a plan to gather data that would allow them to better understand the impact of these changes to the process on who is getting access to the programs. A board member also shared a recommendation to hold some spots for those who do not have access to technology. Another board member also recommended again that staff look to collaborate with the Issaquah School District.

OTHER BUSINESS / ANNOUNCEMENTS

Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Support for Seniors

Presented by:

Dale Markey-Crimp, Assistant to the City Administrator

This topic was not discussed. It will be moved to a future meeting.

Closing Process Check

Presented by:

Priti Mody-Pan, Equity Board Chair

The meeting closed with each member present sharing one word to describe how they were feeling at the end of the meeting or a consideration they were taking with them from the meeting that evening.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:06 PM.

The next meeting is currently scheduled for Wednesday, March 6, 2024 at 6:00PM.

INQUIRIES

Please contact Dale Markey-Crimp at (425) 340-2708 or dalem@issaquahwa.gov.

Note: Times listed for meeting topics are approximate and items are subject to change.

(A) Action, (D) Discussion, (I) Information