

**CITY OF ISSAQUAH
Equity Board**

6:00 PM
June 5, 2024

MINUTES

Steelhead Room, 235 1st Ave.
SE, Issaquah

BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL PRESENT

Board members:

Varnika Dokka (excused absence)
Lorna Gilmour
Shani Kapoor (virtual attendee)
Ray Manahan
Lesley Millender-Irwin
Priti Mody-Pan
Kelly Munn
Kunal Srivastava
Cristina Abonce (excused absence)
Tony Curry
Shalanda Fleming (excused absence)
Karthik Kashinath (excused absence)

Administration/Staff:

Dale Markey-Crimp, Assistant to the City
Administrator
Hasanthi Hogle, Parks and Community
Services, Business Operations Specialist

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: 110 519 608#

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 6:03 PM.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Issaquah City Council President Lindsey Walsh provided public comment. Council President Walsh thanked members of the Issaquah Equity Board for their volunteer service to the City and encouraged the board members to engage directly with the City Council through letters and submission of public comment or emails to the City Council.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a) Minutes of May 1, 2024 Meeting

The minutes of the May 1, 2024 meeting were amended to include examples of some of the words and phrases that Equity Board members recommended be included in the “words and phrases to avoid” section of the emergent DEI Glossary that City staff are developing to support shared understanding of key DEI terms and phrases across the City and within City documents, policies, and processes. These amended minutes were approved by the Board.

CHAIR REPORT**Opening Question***Facilitated by:**Priti Mody-Pan, Equity Board Chair*

Chair Mody-Pan provided an opening question to start the meeting: "How do you prefer to start your day?" All present members of the Board as well as present staff members responded to this question.

STAFF REPORT**a) Updates on Items from Previous (May) Meeting***Presented by:**Dale Markey-Crimp, Assistant to the City Administrator*

Assistant to the City Administrator Markey-Crimp provided an update on the work that has been done on the City's emergent DEI glossary since the previous meeting. Specifically, Markey-Crimp shared that the subcommittee working on the glossary accepted the feedback and potential additional words recommended by the Equity Board and sourced definitions for these words. Additionally, per the Board's feedback, the subcommittee has added a section for words and phrases to avoid with information about the historical context of those words and terms, as well as the harm caused by using them. The City's internal Equity Team will review the new draft in July before it returns to the Equity Board for final input and approval in September 2024.

AGENDA ITEMS**a) Parks Plan Update***Presented by:**Hasanthi Hogleund, Business Operations Specialist, Parks and Community Services*

Specialist Hogleund provided an informational update on the process that the Parks and Community Services Department has undertaken to update the Parks Strategic Plan. Hogleund shared about the approach to community input gathering for this update, as well as the demographics and key takeaways from the surveying and outreach to the community. The Equity Board shared feedback on the City's approach to engagement as well as novel engagement approaches. Hogleund also provided information about the themes that emerged from the engagement that led to the changes and potential statements of plan purpose. The Board recommended making this statement more "human centered" and focused on the purpose of parks in places of connection and gathering of people. Hogleund shared that the draft plan will be ready in July. A copy will come back to the Board for the July 17 Meeting for further consideration and discussion if desired.

b) Chair and Vice Chair Annual Election*Facilitated by:**Dale Markey-Crimp, Assistant to the City Administrator*

Assistant to the City Administrator Markey-Crimp facilitated the annual election process for Board Chair and Vice Chair. Priti Mody-Pan was voted unanimously to continue in her role as Equity Board Chair. Ray Manahan was voted unanimously to the position of Equity Board Vice Chair. Both will serve in this capacity for the next 12 months.

OTHER BUSINESS / ANNOUNCEMENTS**a) Pride Event at the Garage***Presented by:**Ray Manahan, Equity Board Member*

Manahan shared information about the upcoming Pride Month event at the Garage, which will take place on Saturday, June 15, 2024. This event will begin at 4PM and will feature a panel made up of representatives from a number of local and regional organizations. Ray encouraged members of the Equity Board to attend.

b) Nourishing Networks Presentation on June 18, 2024

Presented by:

Ray Manahan, Equity Board Member

Manahan shared about a presentation that he is doing with Nourishing Networks. This panel about health access will take place on Tuesday, June 18, 2024, 3-4pm PT. Manahan instructed Equity Board members who are interested in attending to reach out to him directly.

c) Discussion of how to engage with emails submitted online to the Equity Board

Presented by:

Kelly Munn, Equity Board Member, Alternate

Munn posed the question of how to discuss an email that was written to the City Council and copied the Issaquah Equity Board on the to line. The Board then discussed how to regularly engage with public comment and Board liaison Markey-Crimp offered the possibility of adding an item to the upcoming agenda to discuss the contents of the email. Markey-Crimp stated that she would follow up with Clerk Geiser about other options for engagement with emails that copy the Board but do not pertain to the meeting's agenda.

d) Strategic Plan Update Task Force Progress Update

Presented by:

Priti Mody-Pan, Equity Board Chair

Mody-Pan provided a brief update about the progress that the Mayoral Task Force has made in drafting recommended revisions to the Issaquah Strategic Plan. Mody-Pan provided an update on the task force's process and proposed that the Equity Board take up the recommendations during their September meeting to consider how equity is or could be better embedded and operationalized in this update.

e) Closing Thought

Facilitated by:

Priti Mody-Pan, Equity Board Chair

Chair Mody-Pan facilitated the Equity Board's "round robin"-style closing practice where each board member present shared a word or phrase to capture how they were feeling as the meeting came to a close.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:59 PM.

The next meeting is currently scheduled for Wednesday, July 17, 2024.

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