

**CITY OF ISSAQUAH
Equity Board**

6:00 PM
February 5, 2025

Steelhead Room, 235 1st Ave.
SE, Issaquah

MINUTES

BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL PRESENT

Board members:

Ray Manahan
Shalanda Fleming (virtual attendee)
Tony Curry (excused absence)
Varnika Dokka*
Priti Mody-Pan (virtual attendee)
Karthik Kashinath
Lesley Millender-Irwin
Lorna Gilmour (virtual attendee)

Administration/Staff:

Dale Markey-Crimp, Assistant to the City
Administrator
Mayor Mary Lou Pauly
Gillian Straub
David Reedy
Jared Schneider

Kelly Munn – Alternate
Shani Kapoor – Alternate (virtual attendee)
Kunal Srivastava* - Alternate (virtual
attendee)

*Youth Members

CALL TO ORDER

Equity Board Chair Priti Mody-Pan called the meeting to order at 6:03 PM.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Saba Mahanian made public comment on behalf of the Bahá'ís of Issaquah inviting Equity Board members to the February 22, 2025 Community Building Social. The social will feature the Executive Director of the Issaquah Food Bank speaking about the role of the food bank in building community. The event will start at 5 PM at 19532 SE 51st St, Issaquah, WA and will include dinner.

Assistant to the City Administrator Dale Markey-Crimp shared two pieces of public comment shared with the board via email:

- Information about Literary Nights, a local organization that encourages connection and diverse expression through written and spoken word, poetry, and open mic performances. Literary Nights had their first event of the year on January 20th, and has five more planned events in 2025; the next will occur on Monday, March 3, 2025 at the Train Depot at 78 1st Ave NE, Issaquah, WA. More information can be found at www.literarynights.com.
- Public comment from Issaquah resident Connie Marsh related to the topic of Resilience Hubs, on the evening's agenda. Marsh asked why resilience hubs were being discussed instead of the larger issue of emergency management; she also requested that the City website be updated, and shared concerns about the terminology and reading level of materials.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a) Minutes of January 8, 2025 Meeting.
The minutes of the January 8, 2025 meeting were approved with one grammatical error.

CHAIR REPORTa) **Opening Question***Presented by:**Priti Mody-Pan, Equity Board Chair*

Board Chair Priti Mody-Pan providing an opening question to start the meeting: “What is your most memorable experience with snow—good or bad?” All present members, virtual attendees, and staff responded to the question.

STAFF REPORTa) **Updates from January Meeting***Presented by:**Dale Markey-Crimp, Assistant to the City Administrator*

Assistant to the City Administrator Markey-Crimp shared briefly the actions taken since the January meeting, including the attendance of the Mayor of this evening’s meeting. Markey-Crimp also shared that the topic of the evolution of the Equity Framework and the feedback from the Board would be on the upcoming internal Equity Team meeting agenda.

AGENDA ITEMSa) **Equity Impact Assessment - Evans School Consulting Group***Presented by:**Gillian Straub, Management Analyst*

Management Analyst Straub introduced the Evans School Consulting Team, that will be working with the Administration to review and make equity-related recommendations for Issaquah Boards and Commissions, including recruitment, retention, and professional growth of board and commission members; demographic composition and representation of boards and commissions; and equity-centered governance and decision-making. The consulting group requested a small subset of the Equity Board to participate in their ongoing work outside of regular board meetings given the 3-month time-frame of their work.

b) **Equity Framework Implementation - Resilience Hubs***Presented by:**David Reedy, Sustainability Coordinator*

Sustainability Coordinator David Reedy and Emergency Manager Jared Schneider presented on the ongoing work of Resilience Hubs in Issaquah. Reedy provided an update on the City’s resilience hub program and the progress that has been made in the past year. Emergency Manager Schneider provided an update on how the hubs were activated during the November Wind Event and lessons learned, as well as a new approach to hub activation. Staff collected feedback how the program can continue to grow and lead with equity.

c) **2025 Work Plan Discussion with Mayor Pauly***Presented by:**Dale Markey-Crimp, Assistant to the City Administrator*

Issaquah Mayor Mary Lou Pauly visited the Board to provide input and feedback to the Board on their 2025 Work Plan and guidance on the direction that the City is taking given the current national climate. She also responded to board member questions.

OTHER BUSINESS / ANNOUNCEMENTSa) **Closing Thought**

02-05-25 Equity Board Minutes

Facilitated by:

Priti Mody-Pan, Equity Board Chair

For time, this item was skipped for this meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:07 PM.

The next meeting is currently scheduled for Wednesday, March 5, 2025.