

CITY OF ISSAQUAH
Equity Board

6:00 PM
March 5, 2025

MINUTES

Steelhead Room, 235 1st Ave.
SE, Issaquah

BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL PRESENT

Board members:

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

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

*Youth Members

Administration/Staff:

Dale Markey-Crimp, Assistant to the City
Administrator
Jeff Watling, Parks and Community Services
Director
Amy Dukes, Arts Manager

CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chair Ray Manahan called the meeting to order at 6:07 PM.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There was no public comment made that this meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a) Minutes of February 5, 2025 Meeting
The minutes of the February 5, 2025 Meeting were approved unanimously without revision.

CHAIR REPORT

- a) **Opening Question**

Presented by:

Ray Manahan, Equity Board Vice Chair

Board Vice Chair Ray Manahan provided an opening question to start the meeting: "What is your favorite thing about living/working in the Issaquah community? All present members, virtual attendees, and staff responded to the question.

STAFF REPORT

- a) **Updates from February 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 February meeting, including the launch of the Evans Consulting Group work on equitable board and commission processes and practices. Markey-Crimp also that the City's internal

Equity Team had added the evolution of the Equity Framework to their 2025 workplan at the recommendation of the Board and had launched the implementation of the now-named Equity and Inclusion Glossary, an item the Board had approved for implementation in December 2024.

AGENDA ITEMS

a) **Cultural Events - City Role and Future Process**

Presented by:

Jeff Watling, Parks & Community Services Director

Amy Dukes, Arts Program Administrator

Dale Markey-Crimp, Assistant to the City Administrator

City staff presented the current proposed evolution of the City's approach to cultural events: to be a funder, space-provider, and supporter. This is a pivot away from being a producer/lead on City-determine key cultural events, and to instead focus on supporting community-led events through a new grant program. Members of the Board expressed overall support for this idea, but elevated the need to focus on community input in the development of grant criteria, grantee selection, and equitable access to any grant application process.

b) **Board Recruitment**

Presented by:

Dale Markey-Crimp, Assistant to the City Administrator

Assistant to the City Administrator Markey-Crimp shared the current applicant count and interviewer needs for this year's board recruitment. She requested volunteers to support with interviewing. A plan was determined that Markey-Crimp will first figure out the interview windows, share those with the board to get volunteers, and then confirm interview times with the applicants. Interviews will be conducted in the month of March.

OTHER BUSINESS / ANNOUNCEMENTS

a) **Navigating the National Climate**

Facilitated by:

Ray Manahan, Equity Board Vice Chair

The Board briefly discussed the current series of executive orders from the federal government and how the Board may want to advise the Administration on its diversity, equity, and inclusion work and decision-making moving forward.

b) **Supporting Youth in Advocacy**

Presented by:

Varnika Dokka and Kunal Srivastava, Equity Board Youth Members

Youth members Varnika Dokka and Kunal Srivastava requested feedback on their emerging plan related to youth advocating for changes to the socioemotional learning curriculum experienced by youth across the community through the school district. Board members provided feedback on their plan and advised them to work with their peers and the school district to advocate for these changes.

c) **Closing Thought**

Presented by:

Ray Manahan, Equity Board Vice Chair

Board Vice Chair Ray Manahan closed the meeting with a closing thought and invited other members to share.

ADJOURNMENT

03-05-25 Equity Board Minutes

The meeting was adjourned at 7:46 PM.

The next meeting is currently scheduled for Wednesday, April 2, 2025.

CITY OF ISSAQUAH
Equity Board

6:00 PM
April 2, 2025

MINUTES

Steelhead Room, 235 1st Ave.
SE, Issaquah

BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL PRESENT

Equity Board members:

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

Administration/Staff:

Dale Markey-Crimp, Assistant to the City Administrator
Stacy Vynne McKinstry, Sustainability Manager
Allen Quynn, Senior Stormwater Engineer

Environmental Board members:

Don McQuilliams (virtual attendee)
Jaime Finch (excused absence)
Kiran Pan*
Mina (Alexandra) Jun* (excused absence)
Praj Ghatpande (excused absence)
Tom Anderson (virtual attendee)
Alix Lee-Tigner (virtual attendee)
Dixie Bair (excused absence)
Nancy Davidson (virtual attendee)
Keith Gonzalex - Alternate (virtual attendee)
Anne Newcomb - Alternate (excused absence)
Jonathan Smith - Alternate (excused absence)

*Youth Members

CALL TO ORDER

Equity Board Chair Priti Mody-Pan called the meeting to order at 6:04 PM.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Public comment was made over email by Saira Khan, Executive Director of Literary Nights submitted public comment announcing the upcoming Literary Night event at the Issaquah Train Depot on Monday, May 5, 2025, 6:30-9:30PM.

AGENDA ITEMS

a) **Opening Question**

Facilitated by:
Priti Mody-Pan

Board Chair Priti Mody-Pan provided an opening question to start the meeting: “What is something you’ve learned from a parent, mentor or elder that has impacted you?” All present members, virtual attendees, and staff responded to the question.

b) **Floodplain Management: Issaquah Creek Capital Investment Strategy (D)**

Presented by:

Natalie Seitz, King County River and Floodplain Management

Alexandra Dolk, King County River and Floodplain Management

Alexandra Dolk and Natalie Seitz, projects from the King County Floodplain Management Team, provided an informational presentation about the purpose and process of floodplain management, as well as the goals and objectives of the Issaquah Creek Capital Investment Strategy. Dolk and Seitz requested that both the Equity Board and Environmental Board members in attendance share information about the values and needs of communities within the Issaquah community related to flooding and floodplain management as well as who might be important community liaisons to reach out to and how best to engage the community. Board members provided strategies for outreach and recommendations of organizations that could provide connections to communities.

c) **Closing Thought**

Facilitated by:

Priti Mody-Pan

Board Chair Priti Mody-Pan closed the meeting with a closing thought and invited other members to share.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:39 PM.

The next regular meeting of the Issaquah Environmental Board is Wednesday, April 9, 2025.
The next regular meeting of the Issaquah Equity Board is currently scheduled for Wednesday, May 7, 2025.