

**CITY OF ISSAQUAH  
Equity Board**

6:00 PM  
June 4, 2025

**MINUTES**

Steelhead Room, 235 1st Ave.  
SE, Issaquah

**BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL PRESENT**

*Board members:*

Heather Youngs  
Priti Mody-Pan  
Varnika Dokka\*  
Karthik Kashinath (virtual attendee)  
Lesley Millender-Irwin  
Lorna Gilmour  
Chris Ziade  
Oscar Montano  
Quan Palmer

Kunal Srivastava\* - Alternate (excused absence)  
Kelly Munn – Alternate  
Nisha Nair – Alternate (excused absence)

\*Youth Members

*Administration/Staff:*

Gillian Straub, Management Analyst  
Thomas Valdriz, Senior Transportation  
Planner

**CALL TO ORDER**

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

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There was no public comment made at this meeting.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- a) Minutes of May 7, 2025 Meeting  
The minutes of the May 7, 2025 Meeting were approved unanimously without revision.

**CHAIR REPORT**

- a) **Opening Question**  
*Presented by:*  
*Priti Mody-Pan, Equity Board Chair*  
Chair Mody-Pan provided an opening question to start the meeting: What to you signals the start of summer? All present members, virtual attendees and staff responded to the question.

**STAFF REPORT**

- a) **Updates Since May 7, 2025 Meeting**

*Presented by:*

*Gillian Straub, Management Analyst*

Straub shared briefly the actions taken since the May meeting, including the reservation of a spot for the Equity Board at Culture Fest and the volunteering of two members of the Board to receive the City's Juneteenth Proclamation.

## **AGENDA ITEMS**

### **a) Central Issaquah Station & Alignment Study Introduction (I)**

*Presented by:*

*Thomas Valdriz, Senior Transportation Planner*

Valdriz presented on the Central Issaquah light rail planning, a process that has spanned more than a decade. Valdriz detailed the ST3 ballot measure enabling light rail in Issaquah via the South Kirkland to Issaquah (SKI) Link. Regarding Issaquah-specific actions, the Light Rail Planning Guide was adopted by City Council in 2024 setting forward the goals and vision of the planning process. The next step, the Alignment Study, will begin in 2025. It will identify a preferred location for a station, and preferred criteria for any location, and which is a strategy that other cities have used to guide Sound Transit's decision on a location. The Alignment Study, and the preferred criteria, will return to the Equity Board in quarter 4 of 2025 for feedback. Commissioners and Valdriz discussed including equity in the criteria, learning from other cities and getting feedback from transit users.

### **b) Equity and the City's Boards and Commissions - Evans Consulting Group Presentation (D)**

*Presented by:*

*Gillian Straub, Management Analyst*

Straub and the Evans School returned to the Equity Board to present their final findings on equity in Issaquah's boards and commissions. This group had previously attended the February and May meetings, with the May meeting serving as an opportunity for the Equity Board to provide feedback on the draft recommendations. The Evans School summarized their recommendations on board role and governance, inclusion, and diversity and representation, and requested feedback on prioritization for implementation and standard practices for boards. The Commissioners noted general and topic-specific equity training for members, an accessible application and onboarding packet, and retention as key areas of focus. Other considerations should include equity training for liaisons and the role of liaisons in surfacing equity considerations.

### **c) Chair and Vice Chair Annual Election (A)**

*Facilitated by:*

*Gillian Straub, Management Analyst*

Straub facilitated the annual election process for Board Chair and Vice Chair. Lesley Millender-Irwin was voted unanimously to the position of Equity Board Chair. Karthik Kashinath was voted unanimously to the position of Equity Board Vice Chair. Both will serve in their respective roles until June 2026.

## **OTHER BUSINESS / ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The incoming Chair and Vice Chair shared a few words on their vision for the Equity Board for the next year.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:07 PM.

06-04-25 Equity Board Minutes

The next meeting is currently scheduled for July 2, 2025.