

CITY OF ISSAQUAH
Fourth of July Commission

5:30 PM
 September 8, 2025

MINUTES

Coho Room, 130 E. Sunset
 Way, Issaquah

COMMISSION AND ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL PRESENT

Commissioners:

Paul Winterstein, Chair
 Chris Reh, Vice-Chair (absent)
 Ben Armlin
 Francisco Garcia
 Brenda Spears
 Missy Tubbs

Administration/Staff:

Wally Bobkiewicz, City Administrator
 Lindsey Marsh, Executive Department
 Coordinator

CALL TO ORDER

Paul Winterstein called the meeting to order at 5:31 PM.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a) Minutes of August 11, 2025

Ben Armlin motioned to approve the minutes, Francisco Garcia seconded the motion. Minutes approved.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

ICMA Visiting Fellow Ken Estabrook shared that he was excited to sit in on this commission meeting to continue learning about local city government and was grateful for the opportunity to hear about our ideas for this celebration as a retired army veteran himself.

AGENDA ITEMS

- a) **Review Stickers**

Presented by:

Wally Bobkiewicz, City Administrator

Stickers and the embroidered patch were shared and passed around. Paul requested the digital logo to advertise the upcoming events. Will work with city staff to get the digital logo for distribution. More stickers will be ordered to pass out at upcoming community events to get the word out.

- b) **Update on Director of Parade Volunteer Position**

Presented by:

Wally Bobkiewicz

Wally shares that he talked with HR to hire a volunteer, non-regular part-time employee for the director of parade position. HR staff posted the position today, and we will try to recruit someone for this position. Shared posting with commission to help recruit and share posting. The Chair, Vice Chair, and City Administrator made the decision to move quickly and develop/post this position to recruit.

c) **Review America250 WA Community Participation Suggestions**

Presented by:

Wally Bobkiewicz, City Administrator

Shared the list of events, and talked about starting the conversation around Issaquah Events. Chair encourages the commission to figure out events early in advance so that we can recruit organizations to participate.

d) **Brainstorm Session: Issaquah Events**

Presented by:

Wally Bobkiewicz, City Administrator

Chair asks if events should be in a central location or spread around the city neighborhoods. Frank shares an open mic event to read the declaration of independence.

Ben shares he looked at some of the events planned in other states, we can tie in Issaquah historical dates to this as CA is doing.

Chair shared that a tree planting ceremony could tie into Issaquah's culture.

Ben makes suggestions on how to construct the Declaration of Independence "Wall" for the community to sign, can be mobile and shared at city parks

Painted rocks are a popular activity here, maybe something like that could be done for an activity

Chair reminds us that by the next meeting, we should have a plan on type of events and start getting things moving on planning.

Chair shares that Issaquah's neighborhoods are "distinctive places, with a sense of place" and we could capitalize on this and encourage neighborhood events, we're at a time in the country when community building is important and should be celebrated; by bringing things to a neighborhood encourages more participation, bringing events to each neighborhood where many people can be invited to be a part of it should be the goal.

Strong national sense of America250 brand, so we need to make sure what we want to celebrate here and make it Issaquah branded.

Take advantage of the parks to bring events to the neighborhoods or post about the Issaquah events at the neighborhood parks.

Brenda suggests to partner with parks dept on their events to advertise the America250 events/activities.

Invite the community to participate in activities that happen in the community/neighborhoods

Could encourage the neighborhoods to participate in a time capsule.

Wally says the Issaquah 150 celebration is happening in a few years, perhaps the time capsule can be opened then.

It sounds like celebrating in small activities/events in neighborhoods versus a large event is the way to go, bring it to the people

The History museum is planning history events as well hosted at the train depot.

Wally shares an idea for having the neighborhoods create something from each neighborhood that they can contribute, each neighborhood would have a piece of it, is there something that we can create/build, or a puzzle? A series of photos? A large community photo?

Brenda shares that creating neighborhood flags could be a great activity to get the community involved.

Lindsey shares the activity done in San Jose, CA, each group decorated a tree, perhaps something like this could be done in relation to America250

Chair mentions how the Culture Fest had great attendance, so it would be good to try and re-capture that festival participation

e) **Discuss Next Meeting Agenda & Recruitment for Commission Members**

Presented by:

Wally Bobkiewicz, City Administrator

Wally would like to invite Amy Dukes, arts supervisor, to attend next meeting.

Emphasizes that by next meeting we should have some activities/events planned.

Chair recommends to invite Communications to the next meeting as well to discuss how they can advertise or collaborate on neighborhood events

For next meeting, city staff will be invited.

Order more stickers for Salmon Days

Talk to communications to re-post social media posts for recruiting more commission members.

OTHER BUSINESS / ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:17 PM.

The next meeting is currently scheduled for Monday, October 13, 2025.

INQUIRIES

Please contact Lindsey Marsh at (425) 837-3020 or lindsey.marsh@issaquahwa.gov.

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

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