

CITY OF ISSAQUAH
Fourth of July Commission

5:30 PM
 October 13, 2025

MINUTES

Coho Room, 130 E. Sunset
 Way, Issaquah

COMMISSION AND ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL PRESENT

Commissioners:

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

Administration/Staff:

Wally Bobkiewicz, City Administrator
 Lindsey Marsh, Executive Department
 Coordinator

CALL TO ORDER

Chair called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a) Minutes of September 8, 2025

Ben Armlin motioned to approve minutes. Seconded by Missy Tubbs. Minutes approved 6-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments

AGENDA ITEMS

- a) **Planning Issaquah Events**

Presented by:

Wally Bobkiewicz, City Administrator

Wally introduces City Staff that are present to help with planning ideas: Amy Dukes (Arts Manager), Jeff Watling (Parks & Community Services Director), Thomas Rush (Communications Manager).

Commission had an idea to empower the city for a collective art project, and asks Amy Dukes to chime in. Amy Dukes shares experience in working on collective art projects that could be potential ideas: community murals, poetry contests, physical art. Wally clarifies that people can collectively create pieces that are put together, like the mosaic at the hatchery.

Amy recommends to find out a centralized location to keep the art piece. National Endowment of the Arts has a list of ideas for these type of projects, and may provide funding though Amy doesn't think there is much funding available.

Chair asks for commission's ideas on this- Ben Armlin shares our idea of using neighborhood parks as a staging space for art.

Amy suggests to identify a space for this art piece, publicly owned spaces are always easier to use logistically.

CM Reh suggests a large art project that the city collaborates on, need to specify some guidelines for each neighborhood. Frank recommends to get the schools involved and encourage neighborhood artwork.

Amy shares that you'd need to have all components of the artwork ready by late spring, so would be ideal to kick-off this project in early 2026. Amy shares that there are lots of local talent they could use.

Chair asks how would the city connect with residents to spread the word of these projects?

Thomas shares that we could use subscriber lists, and to promote directly with neighborhoods through workshops, definitely do-able. Each neighborhood varies by subscribers. Some of the neighborhoods are much smaller population size compared to others.

Amy shares that there is good representation in the arts commission from each neighborhood and they could identify a neighborhood "champion" that spearheads this effort. Thomas also thinks it's a good idea to utilize the school district to target neighborhoods and communication.

Paul poses the question of having a workshop might not be the ideal setting if we get a huge turnout. Amy thinks there could be a way to centralize it, not necessarily using a workshop, she can think about some more options and ideas and get back to us.

Chair asks what is our purpose for having these neighborhood projects and creating a unified piece- CM Reh shares that he thinks it models how the US is a melting pot and coming together as a community..the community could have something tangible that they participate in.

Brenda shares that these art pieces are a way to bring the community out and participate in the festivities.

Chair asks Brenda to clarify her comment, Brenda thinks these projects should be used to get the community excited as a build-up to the 250 event, promoting the event.

Chair remembers when the Issaquah Alps Trails Club created a mosaic for an event a couple of years ago. This was a simplified option and this model could be used to take to smaller events.

Jeff comments that if the goal is for each neighborhood to have a unique piece each, then this could be do-able. The idea of the artwork could be decided for each neighborhood to save time/effort in advance, this is a more budget-friendly option.

Wally clarifies that the idea is to have the neighborhood art project, have the community participate in creating this art piece, and have it ready to present at the 4th of July event. Directs Amy Dukes to explore this option and get back to us on logistics and an estimate of cost so that Wally can go to the Council for funding. CM Reh also suggests to have a more concrete plan for Council. In two weeks, Wally says that we'll have a solid plan by then.

CM Reh shares that the objective is to bring the community together and to get the word out of the upcoming events.

Jeff shares that there may be a funding option available that they could explore for some additional funds.

Wally suggests that if there are other ideas that they want to pursue, we would need to get working on it very soon.

Ben shares that last year Snoqualmie did street flags throughout town.

Amy Dukes shares that there is a good free source of digital art program that allows us to get free artwork, so if we are interested in creating flags, we could get them for free.

Wally reminds everyone that we need to finalize the plan and go from there, there's lots of ideas and we should figure out our final plan of events.

Ben shares that the flags/banners could be used to promote the parade.

Missy asks if there could be an art contest for the banners.

CM Reh thinks we should have a kid-focused activity or event, like Talus where they have sidewalk chalk challenge. Jeff said we've done a sidewalk chalk art festival in July, it could be moved to a closer date. The theme could be America250. Amy shares that it would be very easy to move the date. It is a very well-attended event.

Chair asks if the commission approves of these two events that we plan for: the chalk art festival and the neighborhood mosaics.

Wally asks if we should price what a set of banners would cost for Front Street. Jeff says these could go up on Memorial Day Weekend. Wally asks if the Highlands Council also has banners and they do. Along Gilman is not an option due to the hardware.

Jeff asks if the commission would reach out to the Highlands Council to see if they would hang the banners as well.

CM Reh asks if the history museum is doing anything. Chair says yes they will be planning events and are soliciting new art pieces from the community to include other voices of early Issaquah and what Issaquah is like today to capture many stories that represent our community. There is always a genuine interest in local history during these type of events.

CM Reh asks how do we make this event feel more culturally inclusive for the non-traditional members, are there any naturalization ceremonies that we could tap into.

Jeff points out that maybe including the tribe in an appropriate way could be an idea. Chair shares that there is some collaboration already being talked about.

OTHER BUSINESS / ANNOUNCEMENTS

Next Meeting Date- Commissioner Missy Tubbs proposes a new date for the November meeting. The next meeting will be moved to November 17th.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:19 PM.

The next meeting is currently scheduled for November 17, 2025 at 5:30pm.