

**CITY OF ISSAQUAH**  
**Fourth of July Commission**

5:30 PM  
 December 15, 2025

**MINUTES**

Coho Room, 130 E. Sunset  
 Way, Issaquah

**COMMISSION AND ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL PRESENT**

*Commissioners:*

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

*Administration/Staff:*

Wally Bobkiewicz, City Administrator (absent)  
 Lindsey Marsh, Executive Department  
 Coordinator  
 Janie Bube, Volunteer Executive Director

**CALL TO ORDER**

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- a) Minutes of November 17, 2025

Armlin moved to approve minutes. Tubbs seconded. Minutes approved 6-0.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Christina Bruning DIA- it's been exciting to see the national news about the America250 events, and excited that it's here in Issaquah. Very visible in other states, looking forward to hearing an update from our group.

**AGENDA ITEMS**

- a) **Spring Kick-Off Event for Art Project**

*Presented by:*

*Janie Bube, Fourth of July Executive Director*

Janie shared artist that will complete the mosaic, shared images of artwork in Issaquah, artist will start at different areas of town. Artist will attend next commission meeting to finalize the theme and details, February design would be finalized, kickoff event in April/May at Farmer's Market, sweet social with vendors to get the word out. Permanent indoor installation at the Community Center. Armlin asks if there's any options outdoors so that the artwork will be more visible. Winterstein asks the commission about the Farmer's Market and people who attend are mostly from out of town, so we might not get many Issaquah people. Commission recommends finding more local, smaller events that would attract more community members versus out of towners. Downtown Issaquah Association shares that they have lots of events that could be a good venue for this. CM Reh asks about timeline for sharing the events. Janie shares that marketing should start as soon as possible.

- b) **Swag Discussion**

*Presented by:*

*Janie Bube, Fourth of July Executive Director*

Logo-wear will be created for kickoff event that we could sell. CM Reh asks about budget and whether there's funding to create/sell swag. Janie responds that we would look for sponsorships to help cover costs as there is not much in the city budget for this. Sponsorships would be advertised starting in January. Reh asks about plan for coming up with budget on what we should expect to spend. Discussion over city budget and whether there's already funding earmarked for this.

**c) Parade Discussion**

*Presented by:*

*Janie Bube, Fourth of July Executive Director*

Frank shares that the new mayor has connections to other businesses and may be able to connect commission to these businesses.

Discussion on how the parade will be larger this year. We would love to secure some animals (horses) for this year. Will need a staging area for the horses separate of the parade group. Ben Armlin was in the Salmon Days parade and shared his experience. Need to make sure there's clean-up after the horses. Suggestions on parade route changes, similar route to how Salmon Days was done, stage at Confluence Park/Holly St, turn right on Front St. Discussion on who to ask to participate in the parade-usual groups plus gymnastics class, Pickles Playland, Jax River Dog clients, goats, etc.

Janie shares the idea of the wagon contest, and how successful it is at other events in the US. Commission liked the idea. Winterstein shares that last year kids made signs for the Grand Marshall vehicle for the side of the car.

Frank shares that an Issaquah resident recently became an astronaut and could be a good idea for this year's grand marshal.

Winterstein shares some history on The Grange and how a possible theme could be "Your History", tying in Issaquah history to America 250.

Armlin asks why the change from floats to wagons. Janie shares that it's a more affordable option that could bring in more participants. Armlin asks if we could still allow floats if people want to, and the commission agreed. We should focus on bringing in wagons and if people want to do a float, then they can do the float. Janie shares that her goal is to have at least 100 wagons. Should reach out to Boehms and other historical business in Issaquah to have them come out and promote at the parade, could help others to participate to highlight.

**d) Timeline of Events**

*Presented by:*

*Janie Bube, Fourth of July Executive Director*

Chalk Art Festival will happen July 2<sup>nd</sup>

Community Event to decorate/finish wagons July 3<sup>rd</sup>

Saturday, July 4<sup>th</sup>- parade, picnic in the field afterwards, food vendors, music in the field, prizes for the wagons, ends at 2pm. Then, transition to Lake Sammamish State Park- old school games, tug o war, leading up to the fireworks

Sunday- more world cup focused event

School of Rock could be an option for live music after the parade.

**REPORTS**

America 250 Poster Project – does the commission think we should do this?

Winterstein shares that participating in a national thing may stir up controversy/dark energy and would rather avoid that. Commission suggests not to participate in the national project but rather do a local thing, still like the idea of doing a local competition. Janie and Lindsey are meeting with Comms team to discuss logistics and if feasible to even consider.

## **OTHER BUSINESS / ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:33 PM.

The next meeting is currently scheduled for January 12, 2026 at 5:30pm.