

**CITY OF ISSAQUAH**  
**Sister Cities Commission**

6:30 PM  
 March 12, 2025

**MINUTES**

Tibbetts Manor  
 750 17th Ave NW

**CALL TO ORDER**

The joint meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM.

**SPECIAL BUSINESS**

**a) Joint meeting with Environmental Board Potential Joint Project, (I)**

*Presented by:*

*Mary Lou Pauly, Mayor*

*Tina Eggers, Sister Cities Commission Staff Liaison*

*Stacy Vynne McKinstry, Environmental Board Staff Liaison*

MAYOR Pauly thanked the Sister Cities Commission for their work over many years investing and building the relationship between Issaquah and Chefchaouen and provided context for why staff are exploring opportunities to partner with Chefchaouen on environmental initiatives. VYNNE MCKINSTRY asked for general comments related to partnering with Chefchaouen on environmental programs while also sharing about an opportunity to partner with Chefchaouen through the ICLEI Race to Resilience program. EGGERS also highlighted the opportunity for student involvement in any partnership.

Board Members GHATPANDE, ANGULA and MCQUILLIAMS asked about whether the City had specific projects planned or existing projects that a partnership could build on. VYNNE MCKINSTRY noted that no specific projects are selected yet but that there are many potential projects for partnership such as the Issaquah Resilience Hub project, solar installations, and infrastructure electrification. Board Member JUN asked to what level the broader community would be involved. Mayor Pauly expressed that community involvement in this project would be valuable and the specific means of community engagement might depend on the project. Following the discussion the members of the Sister City Commission and the Environmental Board agreed to develop a joint letter to Chefchaouen expressing interest in a partnership and identifying potential projects to pursue.

The joint meeting was adjourned, and the Sister Cities Commission convened its meeting at 6:52 PM.

**COMMISSION AND ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL PRESENT**

*Commissioners:*

Stephanie Angela

Victor Bello (*Excused Absence*)

Diana Fleming

Shari Gehrke

Maryann Heil

Ryan Opitz

Wendy Pickering

Emily Royce (*Excused Absence*)

John Girt, Alt. (*Excused Absence*)

*Administrative Staff:*

Tina Eggers, Staff Liaison

*Youth Advisory Board Representative:*

Sanvi Madan (*Absent*)

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The Minutes of February 12, 2025 were APPROVED as presented by unanimous consent.

**WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS**

Incoming Staff Liaison Gillian Staub was introduced.

**AUDIENCE COMMENTS** – None.

**REGULAR BUSINESS**

- a) **Young Artists & Authors Showcase (YAAS), (I)**
  - Adjudication process underway. No issues.
  - Sister City International submissions will be uploaded by Commissioner Heil.
  - YAAS in person showcase will be on May 31 12-1 set up 1-5 event at the Issaquah library.
  - Commissioner Fleming will prepare participants.
  - Commissioner Bello will record.
  - Issaquah library will display YAAS works after event, with their approval.
- b) **Mayor Travel update, (I)**
  - June 19-23. Wendy, Tina, and Ryan plan to meet up with Mayor during the visit.
- c) **Review Drafts Mayoral Letters, (A)**
  - Letter to Norway reviewed and APPROVED.
  - Letter of recommendation for Youth Rep Madan to Sister City International reviewed and APPROVED.

**OTHER BUSINESS / ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- a) **2025 Recruitment underway**
  - 12 candidates have submitted; interviews being scheduled.
  - Letter of recommendation for Youth Rep Madan to Sister City International reviewed and approved.
- b) **Upcoming Meeting Schedule**
  - April 9, 2025 - moving to April 16, 2025 in the Coho Room, 130 E Sunset Way
  - May 14, 2025
  - June 11, 2025
  - July 9, 2025

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 PM.