

CITY OF ISSAQUAH
Sister Cities Commission – Special Meeting

6:30 PM
 April 16, 2025

MINUTES

Coho Room
 130 E Sunset Way

COMMISSION AND ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL PRESENT

Commissioners:

Stephanie Angula
 Victor Bello (*Excused Absence*)
 Diana Fleming
 Shari Gehrke
 Maryann Heil
 Ryan Opitz
 Wendy Pickering
 Emily Royce (*Excused Absence*)
 John Girt – Alternate (*Excused Absence*)

Administrative Staff:

Gillian Straub, Staff Liaison

Youth Advisory Board Representative:

Sanvi Madan

CALL TO ORDER

The special meeting was called to order at 6:36 PM.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a) Minutes of March 12, 2025

The minutes were APPROVED by unanimous consent as presented.

AUDIENCE COMMENTS – None.

REGULAR BUSINESS

- a) Review Draft Letter to Morocco Re: Joint Sustainability Project, (A)

Proposed edits were provided to Gillian for finalization.

- b) Mayor Travel Update, Sunndal, Norway, (D)

Mayor's visit is targeted for Thursday – Tuesday, June 19-23. Commissioners possibly traveling to Norway: Ryan Opitz, Stephanie Angula and Wendy Pickering.

Commission discussed desired goals and outcomes. Most importantly, find government contacts to work with for future programming.

Post Travel: Delegation will attend July Commission meeting to share experience and report on outcomes.

National Nordic Museum: Commissioner Heil will work on point of contact and explore partnership opportunities.

- c) Update on May 31, 2025 Young Artist Authors Showcase @ Issaquah Library, (I)

Staff to send participant letters, update 2025 YAAS webpage, and email invitations to City Council and other boards and commissions. Commissioner Heil to work with Issaquah library. Commissioner Fleming to prepare YAAS participants. Everyone to promote the 5/31 YAAS showcase.

- d) Youth Advisory Board Update, (D)

Congratulations to Sanvi Madan Youth Summit Attendee at Washington, D.C. June 15-21, 2025. Commission discussed expectations for reporting back after the summit.

- e) Other Sister Cities International Update/Opportunities, (D)

- Annual Sister City International dues paid.
- Sister City International webinar of best practices was shared.
- Innovation in Humanitarian award for Morocco Aid. Contact Staff to help support. Application Due: May 1.

- f) Request to Participate in Issaquah Valley Elementary Multicultural Fair on June 4th, 6:00-7:30 PM, (A)

The Commission agreed to host a booth (90-minutes) at the cultural fair. Chairs/Staff to follow up and report at next meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS / ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a) Mayor's Appointments Confirmed April 21, 2025 w/Effective Date: May 1, 2025

Of the 12 candidates, 4 were selected. Pending Mayor's appointment, members will start at the Commission's May 14 meeting.

- b) New Board & Commission Welcome Event: May 20 @ 5:30 PM.

- c) Next Meeting Date: May 14, 2025

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 PM.