

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

6:30 PM  
 May 14, 2025

**MINUTES**

Steelhead Room  
 235 1st Ave. SE

**COMMISSION AND ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL PRESENT**

*Commissioners:*

Stephanie Angola  
 Victor Bello  
 Diana Fleming  
 Shari Gehrke (*Excused Absence*)  
 Brandon Grossi  
 Maryann Heil  
 Christian Nilsen  
 Ryan Opitz (*Excused Absence*)  
 Wendy Pickering  
 Pam Robinson - Alternate  
 Ellen Wunderley - Alternate (arrived at 6:35 PM)

*Administrative Staff:*

Tina Eggers, Staff Liaison

*Youth Advisory Board*

*Representative:*

Sanvi Madan (*Absent*)

**SPECIAL MEETING**

A social gathering was held prior to the regular meeting from 6:15 - 6:30 PM.

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 6:32 PM.

a) **New Member Introduction**

*All members introduced themselves and shared what they are looking forward to in the next year on the Commission and one thing they love about Issaquah.*

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

a) **Minutes of April 16, 2025**

The minutes were APPROVED as presented by unanimous consent.

**AUDIENCE COMMENTS**

Christina Brunning, Downtown Issaquah Association, provided general comments in support of the Sister Cities Program.

**REGULAR BUSINESS**

a) **Mayor's Travel Update (I)**

- Ryan and Tina have been working on travel arrangements for Norway.
- Norway excited for the visit.
- Two of the artists who visited Issaquah will be attending.
- Report out planned for July.
- Commission to work on gift ideas for the trip.

b) **Issaquah Valley Elementary Multicultural Fair Tabling (D)**

*June 4, 2025 6:00-7:30 PM*

- Stephanie and Tina provided updates on the Fair, including that set up will begin at 5 pm; the audience is families and students, and the event is open to the public.
- Stephanie, Ellen and Christian volunteered to attend the event and support the table.
- Tabling instructions will be made available in the OneDrive, and tabling content is in storage at City Hall.

**c) Young Artist Authors Showcase Update & Coordination (A)**

*May 31, 2025, 1:00-2:30 PM Issaquah Library*

- Tina, Maryann, and Diana provided updates and shared signage including artist displays, program, Sister City International content, Issaquah Sister Cities Commission content, PowerPoint presentation.
- Commissioners will kick off the event.

**d) Sister Cities International Awards Submission (I)**

- Tina, Stephanie, and Wendy provided an update, including that the Mayor recorded a video and Commissioners submitted an essay on Issaquah's earthquake relief for Morocco.
- Staff to submit the materials on May 15 prior to the deadline.

**e) Nordic Museum Contact Update (I)**

- Maryann and Stephanie provided an update, including that they haven't heard back from the museum following outreach and sharing the Nordic Museum newsletter.
- Pam volunteered to lead connecting with the Nordic Museum.

## REPORTS

**a) Environmental Board Joint Project with Chefchaouen Update**

- Wendy, Stephanie, and Tina updated the group that the letter to Chefchaouen about an opportunity to partner on sustainability went out and the City received a positive response from Chefchaouen.
- City staff are working on a plan to connect with Chefchaouen and develop a joint project.
- A future joint meeting with Environmental Board may be needed.

**b) Commission Chairs & Secretary Elections – Postpone to June Meeting**

- At July meeting, the Commission will vote on the chair and secretary roles.

## OTHER BUSINESS / ANNOUNCEMENTS

**a) Next Meeting**

*Wednesday, June 11, 2025*

**b) New Member Orientation**

*May 20, 2025, 5:30-7:30 PM*

*Pickering Barn*

**c) Friendship Day Proclamation & YAAS Top Recognition**

*July 21, 2025 Council Meeting*

- Will need to determine who will present, which members will be recognized.

**d) Parking Lot**

*Capturing any off topic or items that require additional conversation for future meetings or offline discussion with Chairs or Staff.*

- Victor has a new idea – will write up a outline of his proposal.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:53 PM.