

CITY OF ISSAQUAH
Sister Cities Commission

6:30 PM
June 11, 2025

MINUTES

Steelhead Room, 235 1st Ave.
SE, Issaquah

COMMISSION AND ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL PRESENT

Commissioners:

Stephanie Angula
Victor Bello
Diana Fleming
Shari Gehrke
Brandon Grossi
Maryann Heil
Christian Nilsen
Ryan Opitz
Wendy Pickering (excused absence)

Pam Robinson - Alternate
Ellen Wunderley - Alternate

Administrative Staff:

Gillian Straub, Staff Liaison

Youth Advisory Board Representative:

Sanvi Madan (unexcused absence)

CALL TO ORDER

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a) Minutes of May 14, 2025 meeting.
The minutes were APPROVED as presented by unanimous consent.

AUDIENCE COMMENTS

None.

REGULAR BUSINESS

- a) Mayor's Travel to Norway (D)
- Local gifts were purchased
 - Reviewed Mayors travel agenda (dinner, concert, agriculture, museum tour, lunch. Waterfall tour, musical, artist farm visit, hike)
 - July 9 debrief of Norway trip
- b) Post-Young Artists & Authors Showcase Report Out (I)
- Victor editing video for September 2025
 - Lessons learned summary at September 2025 meetin

- c) City Council Meeting July 21: Friendship Day Proclamation & YAAS Top Recipients (D)
Monday, July 21st at 7 pm
City Council Chambers, City Hall South
- 1 top recipient in each age group for YAAS recognition
 - Diana and Victor to attend for YAAS recognition
 - New chairs to attend for Friendship Day Proclamation
- d) Post-Issaquah Valley Elementary Multicultural Fair Tabling Report Out (I)
- Christian, Ellen, Stephanie and Sanvi attended. Was great to have youth reps there for students to relate to
 - 75 students attended
 - Youth representation, coloring books were successful
 - For future years, consider bringing food and kid-friendly artifacts
 - Potential to do this at other schools, to be explored when setting goals and work planning
- e) New Member Opportunities: Sister Cities International Monitoring (D)
- Nordic Museum – Pam
 - School Monitoring/Peach Jar – Christian, to begin in the fall
 - Sister Cities International – Brandon
- f) Daughters of Norway Inquiry (I)
- Opened a lodge in North Bend with 45 people
 - Ryan to attend their meeting on July 14, will have a report out
- g) Review of Rules & Regulations (I)
- Reviewed roles
 - Vote on officers at July meeting
 - Need raised to have entire commission be able to suggest items for meeting agendas
- h) Sister Cities International Awards (I)
- Award winners to be recognized at July 22nd conference dinner

REPORTS

- a) Environmental Board Joint project with Chefchaouen Update
- Meeting was pushed to early July

OTHER BUSINESS / ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a) Parking Lot
- Victor – idea of portal camera for events, bringing back plan at August meeting
 - Pam – travel guide for travelers from and to Issaquah, and from and to Sister Cities;

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introductory proposal will be presented at October meeting

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 PM.
Next meeting is scheduled for July 9, 2025.