

CITY OF ISSAQUAH
Sister Cities Commission

6:30 PM
 June 10, 2026

MINUTES

Steelhead Room, 235 1st Ave.
 SE, Issaquah

COMMISSION AND ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL PRESENT

Commissioners:

Stephanie Angula, Co-Chair
 Ryan Opitz, Co-Chair
 Wendy Ghiora
 Christian Nilsen – *excused absence*
 Janae Love – *excused absence*
 Leslie Pflug – *excused absence*
 Wendy Pickering
 Pam Robinson
 Ellen Wunderley – *excused absence*

Marisa Ozburn – Alternate – *excused absence*

Administrative Staff:

Gillian Straub, Management Analyst

Youth Representatives:

Emilee Kuniyuki-Hirahara – *excused absence*
 Sanvi Madan – *excused absence*

Join the meeting in-person at the address above, or virtually using the following options:

Join by Computer

- Microsoft Teams [meeting link](#)
- Meeting ID: 288 203 045 873 979
- Meeting Password: Lz77Vo9M

Join by Phone

- Call 1-206-485-0299, enter Phone Conference ID: 799 340 563#

If planning to make verbal comments, please email [Gillian Straub](mailto:Gillian.Straub@cityofissaquahwa.gov). Submit written comments to SisterCities@issaquahwa.gov.

CALL TO ORDER

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a) Minutes of May 12, 2026 meeting
 The minutes were APPROVED as presented by unanimous consent.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

SPECIAL BUSINESS

a) Learning Course Volunteering Opportunity

Presented by: Stephanie Angula

Angula re-shared the opportunity to participate in her learning course focused on the Sister Cities Commission. Angula emailed more details about the course, including the learning objectives, how it can be tailored to learners of difference experience and knowledge, and the time commitment of 3 hours, spread over a 3-week period when the course will be open. Angula will offer an in-person kickoff to address technical and course materials questions. Angula is seeking participants who can test the course and provide feedback. The course will open for participants in late June or early July.

REGULAR BUSINESS

a) Visiting Artist Update (D)

Presented by: Stephanie Angula and Ryan Opitz, Co-chairs

Opitz shared that the subcommittee has not had any communications with artists, though this may not be unusual given the holiday season. Oystein, the last visiting artist from Norway, is working to put artists in touch with the co-chairs.

Opitz requested that the subcommittee make the decision about the visiting artist, rather than the commission make the decision, given the need to secure an artist and timing to do so. Opitz referenced the criteria the co-chairs have developed for selection, discussed at the May meeting.

Opitz moved that the visiting artist subcommittee be delegated the authority to select the artist, rather than the Commission. Robinson seconded. The Commission discussed the need for streamlining the decision and committing to a robust report out at the next regular meeting following the decision. The Commission approved the motion.

Opitz discussed the budget used to date to purchase the booth space from the Chamber, and the additional costs for the booth. The Commission worked through the list of items from the chamber and determined:

- Canopy – Straub to ask Chamber about stored tent, and city departments to borrow a tent.
- Festival flag – Straub to ask Chamber for clarification on what it is.
- Concrete buckets – Straub to ask about city departments providing, but commission ok with potentially paying for this.
- Tent walls – to be asked about with Chamber and city departments.
- Canopy banner – This is stored with the tent; Angula has photos. Straub to follow up with Chamber.
- Tables – Commissioners to provide.
- Table skirts – City to provide.
- Kwik cover – don't need.
- Folding chairs – Straub to ask about borrowing from the City or commissioners can provide 4 folding chairs.

Revisit this list at the next meeting.

Angula introduced the idea of hosting the artist in homes, as compared with hotels, to both save costs and enhance the exchange experience.

b) Friendship Day Proclamation (D)*Presented by: Gillian Straub, Staff Liaison*

Council Meeting: Monday, July 20th at 7 PM

Straub introduced the opportunity to have Friendship Day recognized by the Issaquah City Council through a proclamation at the Monday, July 20th Council meeting. Straub showed the proposed language for the resolution, and the Commission made the following changes:

- In the last 'whereas' change bringing to bringing
- To ask the clerks about 'international friendship day' versus 'friendship day' and go with their recommendation

The Commission will need to identify who will receive the proclamation at the July 8 meeting.

Angula moved to approve the proclamation as written with the changes noted above.

Robinson seconded. Motion approved.

c) Sharepoint Demonstration (I)*Presented by: Gillian Straub, Staff Liaison*

The Commission this to the next meeting due to timing of the meeting and number of participants.

REPORTS**a) Naming a City Facility Update***Presented by Gillian Straub, Staff Liaison*

Straub noted that she is working to get a staff meeting with one of the co-chairs together to discuss renaming an existing facility or part of a facility in honor of one or both sister cities.

c) Youth Representative Report Out*Presented by Sanvi Madan, Emilee Kuniyuki-Hirahara*

Not present; no update shared at this time.

OTHER BUSINESS / ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a) Parking Lot
- b) Straub noted that Mayor Mullet will be traveling to Chefchaouen in May 2027, and that the Commission should discuss how to support the Mayor at future meetings in terms of meetings, tours, gifts, and reaching out to the 'friends of the commission' network. The Commission had questions of the delegation going and requested a regular report on this item. Commission to propose a subcommittee prior to Salmon Days.
- c) Salmon Days – Pickering noted the option to have the mayor host a reception for the visiting artist.
- d) Add the regular reporting on Sunndal and Chefchaouen to agenda.
- e) Ghiora contacted schools in Sunndal and Chefchaouen about starting a pen pal program.
- f) Robinson shared ideas for exchanging cultural artifacts, like Edinburgh's Greyfriars Bobby statue that resides in San Diego.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:09 PM.

INQUIRIES

Please contact Gillian Straub at Gillian.Straub@issaquahwa.gov.

Note: Times listed for meeting topics are approximate and items are subject to change.

(A) Action, (D) Discussion, (I) Information