



Minutes

Indigenous Advisory Council

Friday, July 14, 2023

12:30 PM PST – 2:30 PM PST

In-Person Meeting Location: Seattle City Hall 600 4th Ave, Seattle, WA 98104
Room 370

[Instructions for visiting Seattle City Hall \(bus access, parking, & building access\)](#)

Remote Meeting Location: WebEx



Members Present: Vice Chair Donny Stevenson, Councilmember Jay Mills, Councilmember Jeremy Takala, Cece Hoffman, Derrick Belgarde, Asia Tail, and Jaci McCormack

Members Excused: Councilmember Suzanne Sailto and Esther Lucero

Guests: Councilmember Teresa Mosqueda, Erin House, Office of Councilmember Mosqueda, Traci Ratzliff, Central Staff, Kevin Bergsrud, Seattle Parks and Recreation, and Todd Burley, Seattle Parks and Recreation

Items

1 **Welcome and Opening Blessing**

2 **Approval of the Agenda**

- Approved without changes.

Approval of the Minutes (June)

- Approved without changes.
-

City Land Disposition Policies

- Councilmember Mosqueda, Erin House, and Traci Ratzliff shared a briefing on the City’s 2016 adopted policies that prioritize [City](#) and [Seattle City Light](#) surplus properties for affordable housing use and discussed 2023 updates to these policies. Policy updates could include provisions to prioritize affordable housing use by Tribes and urban Indian organizations and provisions for surplus lands not suitable for affordable housing.

3

- Members discussed and supported Tribal and urban Indian prioritization through a tiered system. Discussions included desired data on property locations and sizes; development of administrative guidance on prioritization if there is multiple interest; role of the IAC; and right of first refusal process and timelines.
- IAC committee representatives will continue to advise through work group meetings with City Council and Central Staff for an anticipated fall 2023 legislative action.

30 min

City Hall Park

- Kevin Bergsrud of Seattle Parks and Recreation (SPR) presented on the history and potential decommissioning of a “Battle of Seattle” plaque and boulder at City Hall Park located at 3rd and Yesler. Members supported the decommissioning process and intend to draft an IAC letter of support to the Pioneer Square Historic Preservation Board.

4

- Members dialogued about the on-going need to assess and decommission objects in City-owned properties and lands that do not reflect Native histories and cultures accurately.
- Members discussed future work to recommend an alternative use or alternative location for the decommissioned objects and discussed priorities

30 min



to ensure Tribal and urban Native communities are included in cultural placemaking opportunities in City Hall Park and other SPR spaces.

Native Plant Policy

- Todd Burley of Seattle Parks and Recreation (SPR) shared a presentation and draft policy prioritizing native plants for select park land.
 - Current policy language is limited to economic and ecological benefits of native plants. Members discussed the absence of any narrative acknowledging the ethnobotanical use of native plants (medicine, fiber, food). While cultural value of plant is referenced, members discussed how to improve public awareness of the Coast Salish value of native plants through increased use of Lushootseed language in parks signage. Members suggested SPR explore development of a Tribally approved Plant Prioritization List for specific projects and/or landscapes that would be developed through Tribal Consultation and/or in partnership with Native consultants specializing in native plants. Members suggested that tribal enterprises and Native-owned businesses be added as preferred nursery vendors alongside local nurseries. Members reiterated support for Tribal Consultations to ensure the policy update is reflective of the needs and priorities of Tribal Nations.
- 30 min**

6 Indigenous Advisory Council Presentation

- Final draft of slides approved without changes.
 - Councilmember Sailto and Asia will present to the Seattle City Council’s Governance, Native Communities, and Tribal Governments Committee on Thursday, July 20 at 9:30am.
- 15 min**

7 Member Announcements

5 min

8 Hybrid Public Comment

- Required public comment period for community members to speak to agenda items
- No requests for public comment.
- 10 min**

9 Closing & Next Steps

- Quarterly invoicing April – June 2023 due August 31.