



Minutes

Indigenous Advisory Council

Friday, July 11, 2025

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

Councilmember Jay Mills, Megan Castillo, Suzanne Sailto, Derrick Belgarde, Asia Tail, and Jaci McCormack

Members Excused

Councilmember Donny Stevenson, Councilmember Jeremy Takala, and Esther Lucero

Meeting Guests

Jesse London of the Seattle Office of Planning and Community Development, Erica Bush of the Office of Planning and Community Development, Becca Boatright of Seattle Police Department, Elena Blackmore of Seattle Police Department, Kerry Keefe of Seattle Police Department, Assistant Chief Nicole Powell of Seattle Police Department, Deputy Chief Andre Sayles of Seattle Police Department

Items

Number	Topic	Time
1	Welcome and Opening Blessing	5 min
2	Approval of the Agenda (June) - Agenda approved with the addition of possible action on the 2025 budget and policy priorities. Approval of the Minutes (March, April, May, June) - March, April, May, and June Indigenous Advisory Council meeting minutes approved.	5 min
3	Subarea Plans Office of Planning and Community Development (OPCD) staff provided an overview of Regional Centers Planning efforts so far with a focus on Downtown and Northgate. They highlighted how Indigenous values are incorporated in early drafts (with outcomes from contracting with Tahoma Peak Solutions) and ways to provide feedback in the future.	30 min



- Regional Center Plans are grounded in the citywide Comprehensive Plan policies but are more detailed and geographically focused than citywide plans.
- Areas with ongoing plans that will have a public draft coming this summer include Downtown, First Hill & Capitol Hill, and Northgate.
 - Outreach/planning processes will start for additional areas including Uptown (Lower Queen Anne), South Lake Union, University District, and Ballard pending Mayor's Office approval on contracting.
- OPCD outlined the process and timeline that guides the subarea plans, including:
 - Scoping: Contracting. Preliminary review of past and current plans and planning initiatives.
 - Planning: Sculpting plan for a collective 20-year vision addressing growth and focusing on investments.
 - Adoption: Second phase of plans estimated for adoption via 2027 Comprehensive Plan amendment.
 - Certification: Puget Sound Regional Council reviews each plan and their Executive Board is the final decision-making body for plan certification.
- Description of Community Involvement policies in the Seattle Comprehensive Plan
 - Incorporate Indigenous engagement methodologies & practices that improve Indigenous communities' access to engagement
 - Uphold government-to-government relationships with federally recognized Tribes
 - Prioritizes early & frequent Tribal consultation to honor Tribal sovereignty and treaty rights throughout planning endeavors.
 - Encourages collaborations with Native artists and community members to develop innovative approaches for Indigenous representation and visibility within the city
 - Supports the utilization of Indigenous data & reports to inform City engagement
 - Supports opportunities for Native leaders to convene with City representatives and each other to share successes, address common challenges, break down silos, and enhance collaboration



- Priorities from the Parks & Open Space element in the Comprehensive Plan were brought forward to Downtown Planning.
 - Key findings and recommendations through Tahoma Peak Solutions led engagement:
 - Reclaiming Space
 - Reclaiming Narratives
 - Working together
 - Planning
 - Innovation
 - Programming
 - Pandemic Response
 - Conservation
 - Safety
 - Thinking Seven Generations Ahead
 - Honoring Treaties
 - Through engagement of a Native consultant who led focus groups with Tribal and urban Native communities, the Northgate Plan Framework is informed by Indigenous values, including:
 - “A Neighborhood for All Seasons” - Striving to build a resilient neighborhood for multigenerational households and residents of any age, including youth and elders
 - “Living with Place” - Strengthening Northgate’s stewardship of the natural environment and ecosystem
 - “Create Northgate” - Taking advantage of Northgate’s transitionary phase to establish an identity, including that of Indigenous cultures and elements of a Native Neighborhood
 - “Connected Communities” - Connecting the neighborhood to regional amenities and services
 - “Shared Abundance” - Sharing benefits across communities
 - Presenters offered a couple examples on how Indigenous values in the Comprehensive Plan and engagement processes inform policy implementation.
 - Next Steps for Regional Center Plans
 - Mayor’s Office review
 - Complete Mayor’s drafts coming Fall 2025
 - Public opportunity for review and comment on the Downtown, Northgate, and First Hill + Capitol Hill plans in 2025/2026
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- OPCD starts work on four more Regional Center Plans, in Fall 2025 including Uptown, South Lake Union, University District, and Ballard
- OPCD staff said that community communicated Northgate can be confusing to navigate for multiple modes of transportation. IAC member affirmed this finding and challenge of navigating transit areas in Northgate.
- OPCD described previous community-led research around the “Native Neighborhood” concept.
 - Members emphasized the need to make Native Neighborhood areas welcoming to the aunties and uncles in the community affirming that if it a Native Neighborhood, it should feel like community is looking out for you.
 - Members also mentioned that Native communities are not as interested in lofty ideas like the concept of a Native Neighborhood, they want to see the actual Native Neighborhood in practice with tangible examples of housing, healthcare, and cultural facilities and increased public art and public spaces that reflect Indigenous cultures.
- One member explained Tribal approaches to housing development in rural areas that increase access to family sized hosing. Members also emphasized the importance of protecting and enhancing traditional foods found throughout the Salish Sea and discussed the impacts of urban development on run off into waterways. Discussion of connecting tribal enterprises and traditional foods to Seattle markets to increase awareness of the importance of the Salish Sea as a food source in additional recreation and transportation.

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Seattle Police Department

40 min

- Seattle Police Department (SPD) representatives joined as a follow-up to previous conversations and a meeting IAC members had with Chief Barnes in May 2025.
- SPD staff provided an overview of SPD Units related to Missing and Murdered Indigenous People (MMIP):
 - The data center oversees data entry for local to national law enforcement databases:
 - Crime Information Center including National Crime Information Center and Washington State Crime Information Center entries;
 - Homicide Investigation Tracking System (HITS) Verification; and



- Mark43 Records Entries/Correction.
- The Homicide/Missing Persons Units:
 - Investigate facts and circumstances (homicide, missing persons, assault 1 suspicious deaths) – gathering evidence, processing crime scenes, interviewing witnesses and suspects – identify individual(s) responsible, and prepare case for the prosecutor.
- The Performance Analytics and Research Unit is:
 - Responsible for data governance, crime analysis, internal performance analysis, and collaborating with outside entities.
- SPD discussed how the landscape has changed in this work since 2019 because of multiple factors including expanded use of NamUs 2.0, 2021 MMIWP Task Force by the Washington State Attorney General’s Office, and 2023 MMIWP Cold Case Unit at the Washington State Attorney General’s Office.
- SPD reviewed the recommendations for demographic data standards provided details on their initial data collection recommendation, which echoes past conversations where they shared concern about anonymity of data with a small sample size.
- SPD emphasized their need to adhere to Seattle Information Technology’s privacy principles including: “We only collect information that we need to deliver City services and only keep it as long as we are legally required...”
- “Cold Case” Review Information (not specific to Indigenous cases)
 - Original list included 97 cases
 - 52 already in the system
 - Of the remaining 45, 12 were misclassified and should be possible homicides
 - 33 valid missing persons reports were uploaded to Mark43 (M43)
 - 19 additional missing persons files were found in the data center and uploaded to M43
 - National Crime Information Center (NCIC) cross-reference conducted on all digitized reports
 - 8 reports were cleared (individuals are no longer missing)
 - In process of addressing remaining cases (broader digitization process)



- Expanded use of the Homicide Investigation Tracking System (HITS) which is managed by the Washington State Attorney General's Office
 - SPD provided background on a tool, ForceMetrics, that would use Artificial Intelligence to examine police reports and identify events that involve indigenous persons, even when tribal affiliation data isn't available. It does this by looking for specific language patterns in report narratives.
 - The goal is to help the Seattle Police Department better serve the indigenous community by:
 1. Understanding patterns in police interactions with Indigenous people
 2. Analyzing these issues across different locations and times
 3. Helping stakeholders and experts work from the same evidence-based understanding
 - Members asked several questions of SPD including:
 - Does SPD work with the Washington State Patrol and/or the Washington State MMIP Taskforce? Is there overlap in the work? Answer: We work with each other, but we do not currently have representation on the taskforce.
 - What is the point of having the MMIP Taskforce if you can't collect more specific tribal affiliation data among local law enforcement?
 - Does SPD have relationships with Police Chiefs of local Tribal governments? Answer: Yes, we have a standard interlocal agreement. With the new SPD Police Chief, we are working on rebuilding relationships with many Tribal governments and Tribal law enforcement agencies.
 - If the state recommends collecting tribal affiliation data, would SPD collect it? Answer: If it is required by the state, yes, we will. If it is recommended by the state, we need to go through Seattle Information Technology privacy prior to making a decision.
 - Members asked SPD to analyze and share data on homicide, sexual assault, and other violent data statistics for American Indian and Alaska Native cases. Members asked SPD to share data on missing persons cases involving American Indian and Alaska Native people.
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- SPD shared that they offer the Before the Badge program which highlights Indigenous communities for SPD recruits. There is a community member that serves as SPD's point of contact for the curriculum on Indigenous community engagement for Before the Badge program.

5

Old Business

35 min

2025 Budget and Policy Priorities

- Staff provided a draft of 2025 budget and policy priorities for members consideration. Priorities from 2024 remain very similar, but include additional detail for clarity and alignment.
- Priorities are approved. Staff will follow up with absent IAC members.

Mayor's Office Meeting

- Department of Neighborhoods organized an IAC meeting with the Mayor's Office on July 9th to inform the Mayor's Proposed Budget
- Highlights:
 - Request for MO to utilize the IAC more;
 - Discussion on IAC engagement for the FEPP Levy Implementation and Evaluation Plan; and
 - OIR pursuing follow-up with MO to discuss what policy options to enhance Tribal and urban Native engagement

Annual Retreat planning

- Staff confirmed annual retreat for Thursday, August 14, 10am-4pm at Kiana Lodge, Suquamish, WA to be facilitated by Against the Current Consulting
- Proposed Agenda Topics
 - 2024 recap and reflections and on successes and challenges
 - 2025 IAC visioning and planning
 - 2025 City of Seattle | Tribal Nations Summit planning
 - Members suggested adding:
 - Strategy Session – to further explore the idea of having one point-person or point persons by topic from the IAC for meetings with Seattle government officials
 - Space to discuss follow-up items from previous IAC meeting minutes

August IAC meeting

- Due to the IAC Retreat one week after the scheduled August IAC meeting, the IAC decided to cancel the meeting originally scheduled on August 8

Indigenous Led Climate Initiatives Fund update

- Vision Statement and Eligible Projects: OSE and Seattle Foundation is integrating your comments into the vision statement and types of fundable projects. Revisions will be shared by email
- Staff provided a project timeline update including Fall 2025 outreach, development of a selection committee, and Winter 2025 awards
- Seattle Foundation and OSE to make funding recommendations and an IAC member volunteered to serve on the selection committee to work participated in the facilitated review process

IAC staffing update

- Department of Neighborhoods continues to pursue a backfill position for the IAC Liaison. Temporary staff contacts will continue through Fall 2025.

Seattle City Council briefing

- Chair Dan Strauss invited the Indigenous Advisory Council, Seattle Department of Neighborhoods, and Seattle Office of Intergovernmental Relations to present at the Finance, Native Communities, and Tribal Governments (FNC) Committee on June 18.
- Councilmember Stevenson and Councilmember Mills presented along with City staff.
- Highlights: Shared policy and budget priority areas, discussed role in hosting an educational webinar, attending youth civic engagement events, supporting IPD, and receiving national recognition; Member reflected on the importance of the Tribal Nations Summit, reflections on advising city departments, and signaled the desire to expand engagement with city partners

6	Member Announcements	Up to 5 min
	• Two members celebrated their final meeting as IAC members	
7	Hybrid Public Comment	Up to 10 min
	• No public comment	
8	Closing & Next Steps	