



Minutes

Indigenous Advisory Council

Friday, August 14, 2026

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: Microsoft Teams

Members Present: Councilmember Jay Mills, Tia Yazzie, Esther Lucero, Eddie Sherman, and Jaci McCormack

Members Excused: Chairman Donny Stevenson, Councilmember Jeremy Takala, Suzanne Sailto, and Derrick Belgarde

Meeting Guests: Nancy Huizar and Matt Remle, Green New Deal Oversight Board; Mei-Li Thomas, Department of Education and Early Learning; Rick Williams, Mario Teulilo, and Masooma Ibrahim, Community Police Commission

Agenda

Welcome and Opening Blessing:

Approval of the Agenda and Minutes:

- Approval of the Agenda (March): Approved, no changes
- Approval of the Minutes (February): Approved, no changes

Member Introductions:

- Indigenous Advisory Council (IAC) members completed introductions

Green New Deal Oversight Board:

- Co-chairs of the Green New Deal Oversight Board (GNDOB) Matt Remle and Nancy Huizar presented an overview of the Board, its history, structure, and work done so far.
- They explained that the 19-member board has seats allocated to different members and demographics, including frontline communities, labor unions, youth, Tribal representatives, and scientists.
- There are seats currently open for Tribes to recommend representatives. Those seat positions will be filled via consultation with Tribal governments and will have a flexible deadline though they hope to have the seats filled by December 2026.



- The Green New Deal Oversight Board uses a multi-faceted approach to ensure the City lives up to the commitments in the Green New Deal Resolution. This approach includes putting forth budget and policy recommendations. A percentage of the Jumpstart Payroll Tax's yearly revenue is carved out for Green New Deal programs.
- Previous recommendations resulted in the creation of the First People's Climate Fund which provided \$5.5 million to Tribes and urban Native organizations to lead programs responding to climate change. Continuing this funding is one of the Board's current budget recommendations.
- The GNDOB also led community assemblies and community engagement committees. Four reports from those assemblies will be released including from one hosted with Rising Tides Indigenous Planning Group. That assembly included thirty Indigenous community members.
- The Board assisted with the collection of more than three hundred actions through different forums for the City of Seattle's Climate Action Plan. There may be further opportunities to engage in refining those actions.
- The Board will be working on developing policy recommendations and a stance on data centers, including opportunities to connect with communities for their input on development of community-benefit agreement frameworks as part of the Data Center Moratorium's workplan. Those meetings will be in October.
- The Indigenous Advisory Council (IAC) recommended that the Green New Deal Oversight Board develop or collect education materials or fact sheets on data centers that can be shared with Tribal partners and community members. Since Tribal communities are targeted by data centers, the information needs to be easily accessible so those communities can make informed decisions.
- Another IAC recommendation was to include water and beach clean-up efforts in the GNDOB priorities. With pollution closing beaches and Tribal reliance on the Salish Sea for food, it is a concern for local communities.
- The IAC thanked the GNDOB for funding the First Peoples' Climate Fund.
- The Green New Deal Oversight Board members asked the Indigenous Advisory Council to consider how to partner together in the future on joint initiatives. Offered the IAC to present to the Green New Deal Oversight Board on their policy and budget priorities. The IAC members expressed interest in potentially co-developing some recommendations in early 2027.

Department of Education and Early Learning:

- Mei-Li Thomas from Department of Education and Early Learning (DEEL) presented updates on the Families, Education, Preschool, and Promise (FEPP) Levy's Implementation and Evaluation Plan, which was approved by City Council.
- Announced that a Native community member has joined the FEPP Levy oversight board.
- The next steps for DEEL on the FEPP Levy are to combine feedback received and use it to inform and build the request for proposals that will be released. There will be additional workgroups and listening tours to assist in designing future investments.



- A summary of previous community feedback was presented. This feedback included prioritizing needs with culturally responsive programming, tutoring services and after-school activities.
- Additionally, it was recommended not to fund only projects at schools when community centers or community-based organizations might be more accessible. Next steps are identifying locations and what else needs to be considered for the funding process to build program access.
- The Indigenous Advisory Council was asked what specific barriers are impacting programs and program execution, and what do community organizations need to increase program access for families and students.
- The Indigenous Advisory Council recommendations included that space for organizations to use within Seattle Public Schools or Seattle Parks and Recreation systems is a challenge. It was recommended to generate a list of available or designated locations that organizations could choose from to host programs at.
- Overhead costs relating to facilities are large barriers to organizations looking to expand or find a permanent location. Heating, rent, and security become high costs especially for smaller organizations.
- Additional barriers highlighted were the cost to transport students, particularly Native students, to culture camps, workshops and hands-on learning opportunities on Tribal lands. The importance of educating students on Tribal history and culture was emphasized, but hands-on learning can be costly to facilitate. Programs with hands-on learning components were successful, but the cost to transport and host students had become a barrier to their continuation and growth.

Community Police Commission:

- Community Police Commission's Commissioner Rick Williams, Mario Teulilo, and Masooma Ibrahim presented on an upcoming event to honor John T. Williams on August 30th at Seattle Center from 12pm to 2pm. The event will focus on the Williams family and those impacted by police actions. Commissioner Rick Williams asked the Indigenous Advisory Council for support with sharing the event and offered the event as a space for community to participate.
- The Indigenous Advisory Council members requested permission from Commissioner Williams to share with their respective cultural departments, and permission was granted and sharing was encouraged.

Old Business:

- Due to time constraints, old business items were moved to the next meeting in September.

Member Announcements

- Suquamish Tribe is moving to a four-day week, and Tribal offices will be closed Friday through Sunday.



Hybrid Public Comment

There were no requests for public comment.

Closing & Next Steps

Meeting was adjourned.