



# Minutes

## Indigenous Advisory Council

Friday, February 13, 2026

12:30 PM PST – 2:30 PM PST

**In-Person Meeting Location:** Seattle City Hall 600 4<sup>th</sup> 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 Donny Stevenson, Councilmember Jay Mills, Tia Yazzie, Esther Lucero, and Jaci McCormack

### Members Excused

Councilmember Jeremy Takala, Suzanne Sailto, Derrick Belgarde, and Eddie Sherman

### Meeting Guests

Weston Brinkley, Department of Sustainability and Environment; Francesca Murnan, Office of Intergovernmental Relations;

## Items

### Welcome and Opening Blessing

### Approval of the Agenda and Minutes

- Approval of the agenda (February): Approved with no changes
- Approval of the minutes (December): Approved with no changes
- Approval of the minutes (January): Approved with no changes

### Member Introductions

Indigenous Advisory Council (IAC) members completed introductions and welcomed the new IAC Liaison, Kolbi Monasmith.

### Office of Sustainability and Environment

Staff from Seattle Office of Sustainability and Environment (OSE) presented on the Canopy Equity and Resilience Plan (CERP).

- In 2023, the One Seattle Tree Plan Executive Order initiated the CERP to address Seattle's inequitably distributed tree canopy.



- The Green New Deal Oversight Board recommended funding a CERP and the Urban Forestry Commission provides ongoing support for a CERP.
- Staff provided information about the CERP outcomes, such as developing a framework to grow and maintain Seattle's tree canopy, creating neighborhood profiles, centering community engagement, and creating strategies for tree care and stewardship. They also presented on the data used to determine the priority areas for the project's implementation which are Northgate/Haller Lake, Central District, Chinatown International District, Beacon Hill, Rainier Valley, Duwamish Valley, and Roxhill/Westwood.
- Staff shared that the CERP plan is moving into the engagement and outreach phase of the project and currently aiming to have a draft of the implementation plan for IAC members to review in Spring 2026.
- IAC members expressed that it was good that OSE was working with Indigenous consultants on the community focus sessions. They were happy to see that Indigenous consultants were central to the project.
- IAC members recommended the plan include waterways, especially urban watersheds and rivers that include creeks and streams used by salmon as a priority area for forest and canopy restoration.
- IAC members emphasized that Indigenous planning and partnership on traditional ecological knowledge is needed. Indigenous values should be brought into the project as trees are seen as living things that deserve a positive relationship. Members recommended OSE staff remember that when designing the plan.
- IAC members shared projects that their Tribes are working on in relation to forestry and land management. Members recommended OSE connect with them about the Tribe's forestry project and other ecological knowledge.
- IAC members reiterated that IAC can be a resource for connecting OSE to Indigenous knowledge keepers on this project and others.
- IAC members emphasized that the health of this land equates to the health of the people. They also emphasized that this is an opportunity to course correct for future generations.
- IAC members recommended OSE connect with businesses and organizations in the priority areas to explore partnerships around increasing green spaces during building development and remodeling projects.

## **Department of Education and Early Learning**

- During the January IAC meeting, Seattle Department of Education and Early Learning (DEEL) presented on the Families, Education, Preschool, and Promise Levy (FEPP) Levy. The IAC approved support for assisting DEEL to organize 1-4 listening sessions with Tribal and urban Native families in Seattle.
- The IAC Liaison shared updates about upcoming DEEL listening sessions, who had been reached out to initially, and which sessions were able to be confirmed.



- Staff updated the IAC that DEEL staff is tentatively scheduled to return to an IAC meeting to share feedback from the listening sessions.
- Upcoming listening sessions are as follows:
  - 2/21/2026 Seattle Indian Health Board's Family Saturday
  - 3/3/2026 Hummingbird Indigenous Family Services
  - 3/4/2026 Virtual listening session for service providers
  - 3/5/2026 Urban Native Education Alliance
- IAC members recommended healthcare providers such as pediatricians, mental health care providers, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), and Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Nutrition Program providers. Members recommended Indian health care providers be included as a listening session target audience.

## Old Business

- Staff provided an update on the 2026 Annual Work Plan's submission to the Mayor's Office (MO) and Seattle City Council (SCC). Tentative dates for meetings with MO and SCC are late March or April.
- Staff updated IAC members about questions on invoicing timelines that were submitted to the Human Services Department (HSD).
  - IAC members asked to review HSD policies and State code for better understanding of the regulations that are determining the payment timelines.
  - IAC members recommended City programs consider the timeline of funding as it is out of alignment with Federal and other funding sources that Native non-profits have to follow. It can make it difficult for them to meet the City's tight timelines.
- Staff updated the IAC members about the timeline for the Civic Engagement Day as the event will mostly likely be moved from May 2026 to late summer.

## Member Announcements

- A member shared updates on the redevelopment of an inpatient behavioral health treatment center scheduled to open summer 2026 and provided updates on preliminary designs for an upcoming redevelopment in the Chinatown-International District.
- A member shared updates and invitation for the IAC to host an upcoming meeting in their downtown office space.
- Staff informed the IAC Members about the Department of Neighborhood's 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and the Neighbor Day Small Sparks Fund grants to host community events in May.
- Staff also informed the IAC Members about the Good Food Connections + Food Action Plan Summit on March 9, 2026.



## **Hybrid Public Comment**

There were no requests for public comment.

## **Closing & Next Steps**

Meeting was adjourned.