



Minutes

Indigenous Advisory Council

Friday, May 8, 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, Esther Lucero, and Eddie Sherman

Members Excused: Chairman Donny Stevenson, Councilmember Jeremy Takala, Tia Yazzie, Suzanne Sailto, Derrick Belgarde, and Jaci McCormack

Meeting Guests: Alyssa Ha and Sarah Burtner from the City of Seattle Budget Office; Francesca Murnan from the Office of Intergovernmental Relations

Items

Welcome and Opening Blessing:

- Welcome and blessing completed by Eddie Sherman

Approval of the Agenda and Minutes:

- Approval of the Agenda (May): No quorum
- Approval of the Minutes (April): No quorum was moved to next month

Member Introductions:

- Indigenous Advisory Council (IAC) members completed introductions

City of Seattle Budget Overview:

- Presentation from Seattle City Budget Office's Alyssa Ha and Sarah Burtner with an overview of the City of Seattle expenditures, revenue sources, and budget process.
- The presenters explained that the City of Seattle is mandated to balance its budget every year.
- The timelines for the budget process remain the same every year with City Council reviewing, amending, and adopting changes to the budget in the September to November period.



- Seattle's revenues come from a lot of different sources, but most of the City's revenue and budget is restricted to specific uses. For example, utility revenue must be spent on utility spending.
- The revenue forecasts for this year are predicting a shortfall. The forecasts are informed by local and global economic factors such as tariffs, inflation, local layoffs, rising costs in oil, and a weaker regional market than the nation.
- Indigenous Advisory Council (IAC) members asked if there was an analysis of the cost barriers to capital projects and the impact of timeline extensions that are caused by zoning and permitting issues. The presenters said they would try to find that information for the IAC, but that there is a team within the city that is working to find out why there are delays in the permitting system and how to improve approval times.
- IAC members also asked for more information about the contractual relationship between King County and the City of Seattle, specifically on contracts relating to health and human services.

Indigenous Advisory Council Bylaws:

- The Indigenous Advisory Council Liaison, Kolbi Monasmith, provided recommendations to the IAC members present on the bylaws relating to rotating facilitation, governance team, and spokespeople.
- Rotating facilitation was recommended to restart in June 2026 with IAC seat 1 which is Chairman Donny Stevenson. As Chairman Stevenson was not present and no quorum to approve, this recommendation was moved to June for approval to start in July.
- For the governance group, the IAC Liaison explained that the bylaws stated that it was meant to rotate every six months, and each member was meant to serve a term on the governance group. The recommendation was to randomly select two IAC members to serve as the new governance group starting in June 2026. The first pair was Tia Yazzie and Jaci McCormack.
- Additionally, the IAC Liaison presented an update to the bylaw on spokespersons based on IAC feedback. The update would put a year term limit on the position and included language to clarify that other IAC members could step in as spokespeople when needed.
- However, it was not possible to vote on proposed changes due to no quorum. Moved on to other topics on the agenda.



Old Business:

- The Indigenous Advisory Council Liaison asked if there were any additional questions or feedback to be provided to Seattle Parks and Recreation based on last month's presentation of the Environmental Policy and the Thriving Environment Vision documents. The IAC members did not have any additional questions or feedback to provide.
- The IAC Liaison provided a summary of the topics discussed with Seattle City Council members during last month's meetings. Key topics that were discussed at Seattle City Council meetings were Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women and People, Native Community Center, representation of Tribal and Native artists in public art and cultural placemaking, Transitional and affordable housing, the Department of Education and Early Learning's Families, Education, Preschool, and Promise Levy Implementation and Evaluation Plan, and potential collaboration between the IAC and City Council.
- Details were provided to the Indigenous Advisory Council on an upcoming meeting with Mayor Wilson. A list of the IAC's priorities as they compare to Mayor Wilson's policy values was provided. The IAC members recommended adding the need for workforce housing for urban Native community to the language of the IAC's affordable housing policy priority due to the high number of workers who can't afford to live within the city. The IAC also requested data on displacement rates for urban Native residents in Seattle.
- An update on the First People's Climate Fund was provided with links to the list of grantees. The Indigenous Advisory Council was informed that the First People's Climate Fund is currently a one-time funding opportunity.
- Francesca Murnan, the Tribal Relations Director from the Office of Intergovernmental Relations (OIR), provided an update on the Tribal Nations Summit Report and commitments from the summit as well as updates on FIFA coordination.
 - The Tribal Nations Summit Report was released and included reaffirmed commitments from the executive and legislative branches of Seattle City government. Francesca also provided updates on the commitments made during the summit and how the City is moving forward on those commitments. For example, there will be quarterly reporting on four commitment areas to the Finance, Native Communities, and Tribal Governments committee.



- The IAC members and Francesca Murnan discussed the possibility of requesting an executive order on Tribal engagement from Mayor Wilson to codify Tribal relations.
- IAC members recommended the Office of Intergovernmental Relations create a directory with point-of-contacts within Tribal governments and the different departments.
- Francesca Murnan invited the IAC members to attend upcoming meetings on state-wide coordination relating to human trafficking during the World Cup. The IAC members asked if the State and City partners were considering replicating the model used for FIFA to increase coordination on MMIWP. The IAC members recommended building off FIFA coordination efforts to continue work on addressing human trafficking and MMIWP after the World Cup is over.
- A request for a flag for Indigenous People's Day was discussed briefly. The IAC members recommended following the community consensus on what flag to raise.

Member Announcements

- Announcement of upcoming events. May 8th: Applications due for the Environmental Justice (EJ) Fund's Environmental Justice Committee member position. May 28th Mother Nation's will be hosting a Murdered and Missing Indigenous Relatives Awareness Event at Daybreak Star Cultural Center at 10am. Also, on May 28th the Seattle Indian Services Commission will be hosting a tour of the Native Village and Gateway Site at the location of former Pearl Warren Building.

Hybrid Public Comment

- There was a request for public comment, but due to scheduling conflict they were not able to attend. They asked for the IAC Liaison to provide a request to the Indigenous Advisory Board for support on a proclamation to be made on Indigenous People's Day by the City of Seattle. The proclamation they are proposing is an acknowledgement and apology for the Seattle Board of Trustee's Ordinance No.5 in 1865 that called for the removal of Native Americans from the town.

Closing & Next Steps

- Meeting was adjourned.