



Minutes

Indigenous Advisory Council

Friday, June 12, 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 and Tia Yazzie

Members Excused: Chairman Stevenson, Councilmember Jeremy Takala, Suzanne Sailto, Esther Lucero, Derrick Belgarde, Eddie Sherman, and Jaci McCormack

Meeting Guests: Sunny Rose (Intern from Hummingbird Indigenous Family Services)

Agenda

Welcome and Opening Blessing:

- Opening blessing provided by Councilmember Jay Mills.

Approval of the Agenda and Minutes:

- Approval of the Agenda (June): No Quorum.
- Approval of the Minutes (April): No Quorum.
- Approval of the Minutes (May): No Quorum.

Member Introductions:

- Indigenous Advisory Council (IAC) members completed introductions.

Seattle Parks and Recreation:

- Staff from Seattle Parks and Recreation (SPR) provided background on the Tribal Nations Gathering in 2024 as well as the work SPR has done to improve Tribal relations across SPR programs and projects.
- Provided an update on the commitments made at the 2024 Tribal Nations Gathering. This includes the development of a departmental workgroup to develop policies and protocols that will help SPR organize internally to manage capacity impacts to Tribes. The workgroup coordinates across the Department and represents programs and projects that overlap the most with commitments from the Tribal Nations Gathering.



- SPR welcomes opportunities to collaborate on open projects, and 24 current projects include Tribal engagement this year. A list of potential collaboration opportunities for the IAC and for local Tribes was provided.
- Indigenous Advisory Council members provided feedback to SPR on a policy recommendation for the harvest of Native plants. Suggested SPR model a foraging agreement after agreements Tribes have made with National parks. The staff from SPR were interested in learning more about those policies and agreements.
- IAC members mentioned wanting to do a salmon bake during an event in a Seattle park but were unable to build a fire due to regulations. Recommended considering a policy to bring traditional cooking sites to Seattle parks.
- IAC members expressed appreciation for SPR's commitments to government-to-government relations with Tribes. Recommended Parks work with Tribes to tell the story of the villages and Tribal history in the parks. To also make the parks a place for Tribal representation and cultural placemaking.
- IAC members recommended for tribes to provide a list of department leads and program managers within Tribal government to improve the Tribal consultation process for SPR. Staff from SPR mentioned that they are working with the Office of Intergovernmental Relations on improving their processes for Tribal consultation.

Indigenous Peoples' Day Proclamation:

- Representatives from Mazaska Talks presented to the Indigenous Advisory Council on a proposal for a proclamation for Indigenous Peoples' Day and to receive feedback.
- The proposal is to have the City of Seattle issue an apology and reconciliation relating to Ordinance 5 that created a ban on Native people living within the Township of Seattle. Mazaska Talks explained that they hoped the Indigenous Peoples' Day proclamation would be healing for the community and wanted to explore what ways the proclamation can do that. Mazaska Talks emphasized that they want to receive feedback from the local Tribes and Duwamish descendants.
- Indigenous Advisory Council members highlighted that there hasn't been a formal apology issued for the Ordinance and subsequent discrimination Native people faced in the city. Highlighted the importance for Mazaska Talks to speak with Tribal leadership and historians on the issue.
- IAC members recommended they consider modeling the proclamation after the open letter issued by the Washington State Supreme Court that apologized for the historical and continued racism and dehumanization of Indigenous people in Washington State judicial system. Or to model it after the apology that was issued for the Chinese expulsion.
- IAC members also recommended that for a focus on cultural healing, a potlatch would be an ideal event to host for the proclamation. It was suggested to do outreach to Tribal governments and especially cultural departments for feedback.



Introduction to Department of Neighborhoods Director Quynh Pham

- The new director for the Department of Neighborhoods, Quynh Pham attended the meeting with the Indigenous Advisory Council to introduce herself and asked for feedback on how the Department work with the IAC.
- IAC members recommended learning about the history of the local Tribes and their role, both historic and current, in the City of Seattle.
- The IAC members highlighted that all cultural and historic identities are important to telling the story of the City. The IAC members emphasized that knowing how to help people is harder unless you learn their story, and that the City should learn the story of people to help the City identify the issues and how to solve them.

Old Business

- Indigenous Advisory Council Bylaws: Due to no quorum, this discussion was moved to next month.
- Meetings with City leadership: the Indigenous Advisory Council Liaison provided a summary of the IAC's meeting with Mayor Wilson on May 29. Asked the Indigenous Advisory Council members present to provide information on any Native-led capital projects occurring within the City of Seattle.
- First Peoples Climate Fund Updates: a brief update was provided, but the possible action on adding the fund to the list of Indigenous Advisory Council's budget priorities was moved to next month's meeting due to no quorum.

Member Announcements

- The Indigenous Advisory Council Liaison announced that Pike Place Market was looking for an opening bell ringer to open the market on or near Indigenous Peoples' Day. The IAC members present expressed interest in being a bell ringer for the Market.
- Councilmember Mills announced Suquamish Tribe will be hosting the U.S. Navy on June 27th for a historic signing of an agreement for impacts on fishing rights around the Naval base.

Hybrid Public Comment

There were no requests for public comment.

Closing & Next Steps