



Minutes

Indigenous Advisory Council

Friday, April 10, 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: Chairman Donny Stevenson, Tia Yazzie, Suzanne Sailto, Derrick Belgarde, and Eddie Sherman

Members Excused: Councilmember Mills, Councilmember Takala, Esther Lucero, and Jaci McCormack

Meeting Guests: Todd Burley, Seattle Parks and Recreation; Francesca Murnan, Office of Intergovernmental Relations

Meeting Items

Welcome and Opening Blessing:

Approval of the Agenda and Minutes:

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

Member Introductions:

- Indigenous Advisory Council (IAC) members completed introductions.

Seattle Parks and Recreation:

Todd Burley, the Sustainability Advisor at Seattle Parks and Recreation (SPR) presented to the Indigenous Advisory Council (IAC) on the Environmental Policy and the Thriving Environment Vision documents.

- The Environmental Policy is going through a round of revisions and updates. Those updates and additions to the policy were presented to the IAC for review and feedback. The policy is designed to be very high level and comprehensive and focuses on SPR's commitment to be environmentally responsible and steward parks and facilities with consideration of both natural and human environments.



- The Thriving Environment Vision is similarly going through a round of revisions and updates and was presented to the IAC for feedback. It is a high-level vision of the principals of sustainability that SPR would incorporate into policies, plans, and other initiatives.
- The members of the IAC felt that Seattle Parks and Recreation's thoughtfulness and care for the parks and environment were reflected in both of the documents. They felt it was illustrative of SPR's good intentions and appreciated SPR's commitment to Tribal engagement that was iterated in the policies and in their Tribal Nation Summit. The IAC also expressed appreciation for the document's clear and straightforward language.
- The IAC requested additional time to read through both documents to provide more comprehensive feedback.

Indigenous People's Day:

The Indigenous Advisory Council Liaison provided an update on Indigenous People's Day (IPD) planning for 2026.

- Staff began with an overview of the goals of the Indigenous People's Day events, the budget, and the request from community to start planning earlier. This also included an update on current plans for this year's events by the previous hosting organizations.
- The IAC mentioned that they wanted to increase coordination and communication to ensure the community is well informed about all the events occurring across IPD and explored some suggestions on how that could be done.
- The IAC discussed the logo created by Louie Gong and expressed that they wanted to continue using the image due to it having become a symbol of Indigenous People's Day. It was agreed that the staff liaison will coordinate the creation of this year's poster.
- IAC staff liaison explained that in an initial meeting with the different planning organizations that the march organizers from previous years wanted to coordinate different events for 2026 and did not plan to organize a community march. The IAC expressed that they felt the march had become a tradition of Indigenous People's Day and wanted to explore if alternative people or organizations might be interested in organizing it instead.
- Members of the IAC suggested following the same route as last year which would go by the Waterfront, and not to City Hall.
- An event-wide theme was suggested by the organizers, which was healing with an emphasis on youth. The IAC is interested in proceeding with whichever theme that the Indigenous People's Day organizers choose.
- Members of the IAC will join the next Indigenous People's Day planning meeting and then report back to the larger group.



Old Business:

- The Indigenous Advisory Council discussed the 2026 annual work plan and upcoming presentations to Seattle City Councilmembers. They coordinated who would be attending which meetings with the City Councilmembers.
- The portion of the bylaws on spokespeople for the Indigenous Advisory Council was reviewed. The IAC decided that the spokespeople were a go-to for initial presentations and media requests, but other members could step in whenever needed.
- The IAC also discussed policy priority areas within the 2026 Annual Work Plan. These priorities were primarily on surplus land distribution, especially for affordable housing, and on Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women and People (MMIWP). The IAC members also mentioned that it is important to communicate to City Council, programs, and other staff members that conversations on Tribal and urban Native communities are rooted in distinct political and legal status based in Treaty and Trust responsibilities.
- The Office of Intergovernmental Relations' Tribal Relations Director provided an update on law enforcement coordination efforts in relation to FIFA World Cup preparations. Highlighted that Seattle Police Department's Deputy Chief has been named as liaison to Tribal law enforcement agencies.
- The IAC discussed plans for a Civic Engagement Day and September 18th, 2026 at Seattle City Hall were selected as the date and location. Members of the IAC will join the planning meetings and want to explore ways to increase youth engagement in the event.
- The IAC discussed policy proposals created by the Urban Native Education Alliance (UNEA)'s Youth Council. The members of the IAC want to engage youth directly and find ways to have them actively participate with the IAC. They want to explore options and opportunities with UNEA.

Member Announcements

- Indigenous Advisory Council member Donny Stevenson shared that he was elected Chairman of the Muckleshoot Tribe.
- Reminder was shared about the First People's Climate Fund event on April 14th.

Hybrid Public Comment

There were no requests for public comment.

Closing & Next Steps

Meeting was adjourned.