



Minutes

Indigenous Advisory Council

Friday, February 14, 2025

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

Webex



Members Present

Councilmember Donny Stevenson, Councilmember Jay Mills, Megan Castillo, Suzanne Sailto, Asia Tail & Jaci McCormack

Members Excused

Councilmember Jeremy Takala, Esther Lucero, & Derrick Belgarde

Meeting Guests

Hoda Gray and Todd Burley of Seattle Parks and Recreation, Danielle Friedman of Department of Neighborhoods, and Waing Waing of the Human Services Department

Items

Number	Topic	Time
1	Welcome and Opening Blessing	5 min
2	Approval of the Agenda (February) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Approved without changes. Approval of the Minutes (January) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Approved without changes.	5 min
3	Seattle Parks and Recreation <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A new member of the Superintendent's Office provided a brief introduction to their background and role in supporting Tribal Relations and public-private partnerships at Seattle Parks and Recreation. In the area of Tribal Relations, the role includes following up on the 2024 Seattle Parks and Recreation Tribal Nations Gathering to ensure that all commitments are fulfilled or addressed. This role also includes coordination of an internal workgroup that stewards process improvements for Tribal engagement across the department. Staff shared that the guidance of the Indigenous Advisory Council and the Tribal Nations Gathering has helped shaped the department's goals and priorities for more authentic and sustained Tribal and urban Native engagement.• Staff reported back to the Indigenous Advisory Council on Seattle Parks and Recreation's draft Native Plant Policy. The Indigenous Advisory Council advised on a draft of the Native Plant Policy in July 2023.• Staff provided a summary of the process and outcomes of the Native Plant Policy update that has occurred over the past two years. The current policy has been in place for 15 years and was in need of updates to ensure that the department was addressing climate change considerations, aligning with current standards, and	20 min

supporting citywide commitments. Updating the policy allowed the department to recommit to native plant prioritization through a formal policy.

- The internal review team consisted of 12 city staff representing a variety of disciplines and expertise within the department.
- The internal review team reiterated that native plants are critical to the work of the department because they support wildlife habitat, require less long-term maintenance, regenerate ecosystems, support Indigenous food systems, and foster a sense of place.
- Staff shared that key considerations in updating the policy included public interest, climate change, ecosystem health, Tribal interest, regional efforts, and city commitments to biodiversity and climate mitigation and adaptation.
- Through the process of updating the policy, a few key issues emerged: defining “native vegetation”, addressing population/assisted migration, limitation of metrics, practicality of plant sourcing, and exemptions and phased approaches.
- A summary of the proposed updates included: aligning the definition of “native vegetation” with existing city code, moving away from hard metrics and toward prioritization, supporting population migration, including seed sourcing requirements, clarifying exemptions, updating definitions and references, and delineating and updating internal responsibilities.
- Staff summarized how the feedback of the Indigenous Advisory Council was included into the draft plan, including: 1) inclusion of Tribal Nations as a distinct stakeholder group, 2) references to the ethnobotanical use and stewardship of native plants by Native communities, and 3) reference to Tribal enterprises as potential plant sourcing partners.
- The policy is now in the final stages of review and public engagement before final consideration and passage by the Superintendent of Seattle Parks and Recreation. The public hearing for the Native Plant Policy is scheduled for [February 27, 2025 at 6:30pm PST at the Board of Parks and Recreation Commissioners meeting](#).

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Old Business

20 min

- Committee meetings
 - Each IAC committee met to begin discussion of reviewing 2024 priorities and visioning for 2025 priorities.
 - Several themes emerged from committee conversations. First, there is a need to increase the awareness of local government that many policies impacting Tribal and Native

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communities are not race-based but due to the political status of Tribal governments and Tribal beneficiaries. Members also discussed the need to increase the awareness of local government around how federal actions may impact Tribes and Native communities. Members also discussed their role in providing oversight of the City's progress on commitments made through the Tribal Nations Summit and other policies and budget actions.

- Several strategies emerged including continued investment in 2024 priorities, continued relationship building with City leaders, monitoring city council committees, identifying opportunities to advise on upcoming levies, monitoring and advocating for progress on pre-existing commitments to Tribes and Native communities, and emphasizing low and no cost actions.
- Members reviewed emerging policy and budget items focused on policies that support Tribal and urban Native engagement, staff training, investments in a range of culturally attuned services, data reforms that address violence against Native people, and investment in cultural and social service facilities that support Native people.
- Urban Native Housing Webinar
 - Outreach to Tribal and urban Native partners has resulted in a date for the webinar – Thursday, April 10 from 12:00pm-1:00pm. Confirmed panelists include Sami Jo Difuntorum, Executive Director, Siletz Tribal Housing Department and Region VI Representative for the National American Indian Housing Council and Oscar Arcana, Executive Director, Native American Youth and Family Center. Outreach efforts for a third panelist continue.
 - Staff will set up the registration and invitation information for the webinar and meet with co-sponsoring groups.
- MMIP Data Reforms
 - Staff shared a summary of several core buckets of work encompassed in MMIP advocacy. MMIP is a policy issue area that encompasses a number of complex and often interconnected issues. Key areas of work include law enforcement data, law enforcement training, Tribal Consultations and Urban Confers, law enforcement liaisons for Tribes and Native communities, online resources for impacted individuals and families, and culturally attuned direct services.
 - While all of these categories are critical, there are two IAC priorities that align with the areas of law enforcement data,



- Tribal Consultations and Urban Confers, and culturally attuned direct services.
- One IAC priority is to co-develop a policy to notify and consult Tribal governments and Tribal law enforcement agencies when tribal affiliation is known for missing persons cases and death investigations under review by Seattle Police Department. A key challenge to achieving this priority is the lack of tribal affiliation data among law enforcement agencies.
 - Tribes and Native communities have long advocated that there are case level and system level outcomes that provide a policy rationale for collecting tribal affiliation data including, better referrals to direct services, interjurisdictional coordination and communication, more accurate data for planning and advocacy, increased visibility, and better alignment with emerging national data standards for law enforcement agencies.
 - Local law enforcement has identified that local and state laws limit the ability to collect tribal affiliation.
 - Members discussed these challenges and identified concerns with interpretation of local and state laws. Members discussed the longstanding challenges and institutional racism that results in Tribal governments and Tribal law enforcement agencies being treated differently from other government and law enforcement entities. Members expressed concerns about the impacts of limited demographic data and its implications for coordination of missing persons cases across jurisdictions.
 - Staff reviewed the basic structure of local investments in gender-based violence services through Crime Survivor Services provided by the Human Services Department and Seattle Police Department and contracts with community-based organizations that administer direct services, including culturally specific providers that serve specific populations.
 - Staff reviewed key elements of Resolution 31900 and past city budget actions that have sought to better understand the city's investment culturally specific gender-based violence services. To date, these budget actions and resolution requests have not been completed.
 - Members discussed options for the IAC to advise and influence next steps on this work. Members re-iterated the request for Seattle Police Department to share more in-depth about the barriers and challenges in law enforcement data. Members requested that more city partners review the

analysis of the barriers to collecting tribal affiliation data. Members expressed interest in meeting with the Chief of Police to build relationships and share about IAC priorities. Members expressed interest to requesting a more complete report out on progress of the city in fulfilling Resolution 31900.

- Seattle City Council meetings
 - Members discussed two introductory meetings with Councilmember Rinck and Councilmember Solomon. Introductory meetings are a time for the IAC to share about their role as culturally grounded public commission and to learn about the priorities and interest of Seattle City Councilmembers.

5	Aging and Disability Services – 5 Year Plan	20 min
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- Staff from the Human Services Department and Department of Neighborhoods presented on upcoming efforts to develop a 5-year community outreach and engagement strategic plan for King County’s Area Agency on Aging.
 - The Area Agency on Aging is operated by the Aging and Disability Services division (ADS) of the City of Seattle Human Services Department. The mission of the division to build and strengthen systems that ensure equity, mutual respect, and access to resources for older adults, people with disabilities, and their caregivers. ADS provides direct services and subcontracts with more than 80 organizations and two Tribal Nations to provide a network of in-home and community services, support programs, and assistance to older people, adults with disabilities, and family caregivers. ADS services over 48,000 seniors, adults with disabilities, and family caregivers annually.
 - ADS services include adult day services, caregiver support, case management, elder abuse prevention, health maintenance and promotion, information and assistance to other social services, legal support, nutrition, senior center services, and transportation services. The network of services is largely held by local service providers, but there are government (Tribal, city, and county), healthcare systems, education and research, and community advisory bodies that also create the largely network of Aging and Disability Services across the county.
 - Department of Neighborhoods is contracted with the Human Services Department to support the design and development of a 5-year community outreach and engagement strategic plan. This work
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will include a framework for how ADS manages all aspects of community outreach and engagement including raising awareness of services, strengthening the relationships across network providers, increasing diversity with clients and subcontractors, assisting opportunities to reintroduce or expand programs and new initiatives that address emerging needs, and streamlining efforts to address capacity issues.

- Staff provided an overview of the 2025 timeline including data gathering, community engagement, drafting and review. Staff requested a listening session with the IAC in summer 2025 to gather feedback on best practices and strategies to engage Tribal Nations and urban Indian communities and for the IAC to review and provide feedback to the draft plan in late 2025.
- Members discussed the importance of aging and disability services. Members stressed the particular importance of elders in Native communities and shared examples of Tribes and urban Indian organizations prioritizing investments and supports for elders. Members discussed the limited awareness of aging and disability services, and particularly family caregiver supports, that could be improved and tailored to reach Native people. Members welcomed the opportunities to engage with ADS through listening sessions with the IAC and/or partnerships and referrals to other partners, and document review.

6	Member Announcements	Up to 5 min
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Member shared updates on new role working in a Native creative art space. 	
7	Hybrid Public Comment	Up to 10 min
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There were no requests for public comment. 	
8	Closing & Next Steps	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quater 1 invoicing will be for 01/01/25-03/31/25. Members participating in invoicing will receive draft invoices in March 2025. 	