



# Minutes

## **Indigenous Advisory Council**

Monday, February 13

02:00 PM PST – 5:00 PM PST

**In-Person Meeting Location:** Seattle City Hall 600 4<sup>th</sup> Ave, Seattle, WA 98104  
L280 – Boards and Commission Room, Seattle City Hall

**Remote Meeting Location:** WebEx



**Members Present:** Vice Chairman Donny Stevenson, Councilmember Jay Mills, Councilmember Jeremy Takala, Cece Hoffman, Councilmember Suzanne Sailto, Derrick Belgarde, Asia Tail, Jaci McCormack

**Members Excused:** Councilmember Jay Mills & Esther Lucero

**Guests:** Eddie Sherman (Against the Current Consulting), Lisa Chen (Department of Neighborhoods), and Zach Frimmel (Department of Neighborhoods)

**Items**

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| <b>1</b> | <b>Welcome and Opening Blessing</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Welcoming and blessing from Councilmember Takala.</li></ul>  | <b>5 min</b>  |
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| <b>2</b> | <b>Approval of the Agenda</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Approved without changes.</li></ul> <b>Approval of the Minutes</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Approved without changes (1/9 and 1/18).</li></ul>  |               |
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| <b>3</b> | <b>Food Equity Fund</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Lisa Chen &amp; Zach Frimmel, Department of Neighborhoods presentation and discussion on 2023 Food Equity Fund.</li><li>• Purpose of the Fund is to invest in community-led work that contributes to an equitable and sustainable local food system including any activities such as growing, sourcing, preparing, learning, distributing food and/or managing food waste.</li><li>• Fund was developed in response to recommendations from the Sweetened Beverage Tax Community Advisory Board to increase investments in community work led by those most impacted by food and health inequities: Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC), immigrants, refugees, people with low incomes, families with young children, youth, and elders.</li><li>• In 2023 approximately \$2 million in funding is available for community-led projects. Applicants can apply for a minimum of \$5,000 up to a maximum award of \$100,000 for projects that will take no more than 24 months to complete. Funding is provided by revenue from Seattle’s Sweetened Beverage Tax.</li><li>• 2023 program changes include: 1. Program policies and guidelines now include tribes and tribal organizations to be eligible to apply; 2. Tribes/organizations/groups can be located outside of Seattle though, activities still must occur in Seattle and benefit those who live, learn, work and/or worship in Seattle; 3. Increasing the scope to include the whole food system; and 4. Outcome-based reimbursement.</li><li>• Resources include: <a href="#">Food Equity Fund webpage</a>; <a href="#">Guidelines</a>; <a href="#">Application</a>; and <a href="#">Community Reviewer Application</a></li></ul> | <b>10 min</b> |

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| <b>4</b> | <b>Recap Planning Session 1</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Small groups identified common priorities in the following areas: housing, homelessness, health &amp; wellness, MMIP; food security &amp; sovereignty, arts, culture &amp; Indigenous placemaking; youth &amp; education.</li><li>• Small groups inventoried and identified the following groups in a partner landscape: Native-led organizations, tribes &amp; tribal enterprises, philanthropy, City departments, and private and public partners in the sectors of health, housing, education, and arts &amp; culture.</li></ul>  | <b>150 min</b> |
| <b>5</b> | <b>Reflections on Social Determinants of Health</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Members reflected on data exploring the social determinants of health among American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian households in Seattle-King County.</li><li>• Discussion on the chronic underfunding of trust and treaty obligations, institutional racism, and inequitable practices of governments that result in Native people experience significant disparities in health, housing, education, and economic outcomes.</li><li>• Recognition that Indigenous communities hold the solutions addressing these disparities through culturally attuned and community-led approaches such as centering of sovereignty &amp; self-determination, language &amp; cultural practices, and connections to place and community which contribute to individual and community resiliencies. Members noted the importance of using these strength-based approaches to address disparities.</li><li>• Members noted the variety of local Native-led community surveys that offer information about our Indigenous communities and can inform the work of the IAC. Desire to amplify community-led work to advocate for policy and systems changes that positively impact Indigenous communities.</li><li>• Interest in developing common data points that would align with IAC priority areas to use in future advocacy and to create shared language.</li><li>• Awareness and acknowledgement that all data are flawed in some way including missing data, misclassified data, misleading data and gaps in outreach and engagement across Indigenous communities.</li><li>• Discussion on how data is used to advocate, particularly through education and awareness building among non-Native groups that need to improve relationships and accountability to Indigenous communities.</li><li>• Urban Indian Health Institute is a local and national resource for urban American Indian and Alaska Native data – opportunities to request data/analysis, partner on local work, and amplify Native-led organizations specializing in Indigenous data and data services.</li></ul> |                |
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- Acknowledgment that data is an essential starting point and evaluation tool. There is merit in advancing the work even if we do not have every data point we desire.
- IAC can act in an advisory capacity to guide how data are collected, maintained, and analyzed through City systems and to amplify community-led data findings.

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**6 IAC Committee Organization and Structure**

- Discussion on the use of committees to advance priority issues through small working groups. Awareness that Indigenous worldviews are intersectional making committee scopes fluid and overlapping at times.
- Discussion to have 2-3 members on at least 3 committees in Year 1 (2023). Discussion on timeline for chartering committees and exercise to explore what components are needed to make committees effective and efficient, including purposes statements, membership, duties, authority, responsibilities, and cadence.
- Preliminary committee scopes ranged from: health, housing, and homelessness; arts, culture, and placemaking; and youth and education; environment; and structural City improvements.

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**7 Visual Planning Exercise – Miro Board**

- Members engaged in an interactive online platform to brainstorm in small groups and begin visualizing action steps within priorities areas.

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**8 Lessons Learned and Moving Forward**

- Members reflected on what they hope to accomplish in 2023, how they will measure success, and what role they feel they can play in advancing our collective work.

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**9 Member Announcements**

**5 min**

- Invitation to Urban Native Technology Access Forum hosted by Seattle IT and Tribal Technology Training (T3) on 2/17
- [National Congress of the American Indian \(NCAI\) Executive Council Winter Session](#) registration for 2/20 is open

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**10 Hybrid Public Comment**

- No requests for public comment.

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**11 Closing & Next Steps**

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