



Commission on Equity Approved Minutes

Monday, February 24, 2025

Council Chambers and Online

1. Call to Order

Chair Sauer called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m.

2. Roll Call

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Kim Sauer, Chair; Thelma Jackson, Vice Chair; and Commissioner(s) Clifton Brown, Annie Clay (remote), Raul Garza, Makieda Hart, Jonathan Hegwood (present after 6:09 p.m.), and Lacey Youth Council Representative Kieran Sills-Powell

YOUTH COUNCIL PRESENT: Mayor Zury Ramirez-Plascencia; Deputy Mayor Sophia Allard; Clerk Isabella Valerio; Social Media Coordinator Joel Whipple; Aryan Kumar, Representative to the Parks, Culture, & Recreation Board; Elhadj Toure, Representative to the Human Services Work Group; Avani Kumar, Representative to the Library Board; Councilmember(s): Lily Schneider, Dior Trinh, Luka Froehlich, and Sydney Lee

STAFF PRESENT: Shannon Kelley-Fong, Assistant City Manager; Veronica Hand, Equity and Inclusion Program Manager; Sadie Siglin, Management Analyst; and Brandy Legomina, Deputy City Clerk

3. Land Acknowledgement

Youth Council Mayor Ramirez-Plascencia presented the abbreviated Land Acknowledgment.

4. Approval of Agenda, Previous Meeting Minutes, and Consent Items

- A. Approval of Agenda
- B. Approval of January 27, 2025, meeting minutes

Commissioner Brown moved to approve the agenda, previous meeting minutes, and consent items. Vice Chair Jackson seconded. The motion carried.

5. Public Comment

Verbal Public Comment

No verbal public comment was received in person or remotely.

Written Public Comment

Six (6) written public comment(s) were received.

6. Inspirational Item

A. Thelma Jackson, Vice Chair

Vice Chair Jackson recounted the New Life Baptist Church's Black History Month Museum event, celebrating Black History Month.

7. Business Items

A. Lacey Youth Council Equity Discussion

Kim Sauer, Chair

Zurysaday Ramirez-Plascencia, Mayor of Youth Council

Sadie Siglin, Management Analyst

The Commission and Lacey Youth Council introduced themselves and shared a personal talent. Siglin introduced the 6th cohort of the Youth Council and provided an overview of the program.

The Lacey Youth Council shared what equity means to them; their individual equity experiences; and provided feedback on ways to improve equity in the community. Discussion ensued.

The Commission recessed from 6:37 p.m. until 6:39 p.m.

B. Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging (DEIB) Summit Update

Veronica Hand, Equity and Inclusion Program Manager

Hand provided an update on the DEIB Summit. The plan is to have three events over the rest of the year. The first event is scheduled for May 10, 2025, at the South Puget Sound Community College campus in Lacey, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Discussion ensued.

C. Community Events and Celebrations Overview

Shannon Kelley-Fong, Assistant City Manager

The City Council tasked the Commission to research, consider, and recommend community celebrations in their 2025 Work Plan. Kelley-Fong listed current city events and partnerships, discussed lodging tax funding, and presented city grant programs like the Lacey Neighborhood Matching Grant Program and Human Services Grant Program. Kelley-Fong presented examples of community event grant programs in other jurisdictions for the Commission to consider.

8. Commissioner Reports

A. Lacey Cultural Celebration Update

Commissioners: Clifton Brown, Annie Clay, Makieda Hart, and Jon Hegwood

Commissioners Brown, Clay, Hart, and Hegwood provided feedback on the Lacey Cultural Celebration event.

B. Black History Museum Update

Thelma Jackson, Vice Chair

Vice Chair Jackson provided feedback on the Black History Museum event.

9. Director Report

Shannon Kelley-Fong, Assistant City Manager

A. Equity Map Update

Kelley-Fong provided an update on the Equity Map project.

B. Community Survey Update

Kelley-Fong provided an update on the Community Survey project.

C. Potential Community Forum: Active-Duty Military, Veterans, and Families

Kelley-Fong presented an opportunity for the Commission to attend a potential community forum for active duty military personnel, veterans, and their families.

Kelley-Fong additionally provided an update on the Lacey Community Academy, a six-week academy where the community learns about local government.

Kelley-Fong and Vice Chair Jackson additionally provided an update on the History Kiosk ribbon-cutting event, scheduled for March 8, 2025, at 10:00 a.m., at the Regional Athletic Center (RAC).

D. Retreat Discussion

The Commission provided feedback on a potential Commission on Equity Retreat. Discussion ensued.

Commissioner Hegwood additionally provided a recap of the Black History Month Museum event.

Chair Sauer additionally provided information on the South Sound Exceptional Woman Award, where the Soroptimist International of Olympia will award Vice-Chair Jackson. This event is scheduled for May 5, 2025, at 10:00 a.m., at Indian Summer Golf and Country Club.

10. Adjourn

Chair Sauer adjourned the meeting at 8:13 p.m.

Minutes approved March 24, 2025