



Commission on Equity Approved Minutes

Monday, August 25, 2025

Council Chambers and Online

1. Call to Order

Chair Sauer called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

2. Roll Call

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Kim Sauer, Chair; Thelma Jackson, Vice Chair; Commissioners Clifton Brown, Annie Clay, Raul Garza, Makieda Hart, and Kieran Sills-Powell, Lacey Youth Council Representative

COMMISSIONERS EXCUSED: Jon Hegwood, Commissioner

STAFF PRESENT: Shannon Kelley-Fong, Assistant City Manager; Ty Keltner, Communications Manager; Brian Waananen, Lacey Veterans Services Hub Coordinator; and Brandy Legomina, Deputy City Clerk

3. Land Acknowledgement

Lacey Youth Council Representative Sills-Powell presented the abbreviated Land Acknowledgment.

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

- A. Approval of Agenda
- B. Approval of July 28, 2025, meeting minutes

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

5. Public Comment

No verbal, in-person, remote, or written public comments were received.

6. Inspirational Item

A. Annie Clay, Commissioner

Commissioner Clay shared a summary of the NPR article "Smithsonian Artists and Scholars Respond to White House List of Objectionable Art" by Mandalit del Barco. Clay connected the message of the article to the work of the Commission on Equity, pointing out how both work to highlight inequities and injustices, even when others try to mask and erase them.

7. Business Items

A. **Lacey Veterans Services Hub Update**

Brian Waananen, Lacey Veterans Services Hub Coordinator

Waananen provided an update on the Lacey Veterans Services Hub (LVSH), which included statistics on client visits, transportation services, and the geographic areas clients are coming from. Waananen detailed an increase in the number of volunteers and their roles, as well as growth in the number of service providers supporting the LVSH. Current initiatives include expanding volunteers and providers, improving transition from service programs, increasing outreach and advertising efforts, and strengthening outreach events. Waananen also shared current training and staff development goals.

B. **Community Survey Results Update**

Ty Keltner, Communications Manager

Keltner provided results from the Community Survey conducted by Polco. The presentation highlighted key data gathered across a range of topics, including:

- Governance
- Economy
- Community Design
- Utilities
- Safety
- Natural Environment
- Parks and Recreation
- Health and Wellness
- Education, Arts, and Culture
- Inclusivity and Engagement

To administer the survey, 3,000 postcards were mailed to randomly selected residents within the Lacey city limits. Of these, 117 were undeliverable, and 292 surveys were completed, resulting in a 95% confidence level with a margin of error of less than 5.7%.

The Community Survey will be conducted biennially to measure resident satisfaction and strengthen community engagement efforts. Discussion ensued.

8. Commissioner Reports

Commissioner Hart provided a report from the Chamber of Commerce roundtable event for BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color) business owners.

Commissioner Hart also discussed an upcoming event for a potential community garden at Recca Howard Park in Olympia.

Commissioner Clay discussed receiving a report on the immigrant community.

Commissioner Jackson reported on the closure of the YWCA (Young Women's Christian Association).

Chair Sauer reported on SCORE (Service Corps of Retired Executives) funding cuts.

Commissioner Brown reported on funding cuts for various non-profit organizations. Discussion ensued.

The Commission recognized Youth Council Representative Sills-Powell for her dedication and valuable contributions over the past year. Kelley-Fong reported on the 2025-2026 Lacey Youth Council cohort.

9. Director Report

A. 2025 Retreat Update

Shannon Kelley-Fong, Assistant City Manager

Kelley-Fong provided an update on the 2025 Retreat. This event will be scheduled for September 6, 2025, at the Lacey Veterans Services Hub.

B. Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging (DEIB) Advisory Board Regional Meeting

Shannon Kelley-Fong, Assistant City Manager

Kelley-Fong provided an update on the DEIB Advisory Board Regional Meeting with the Thurston County Racial Equity Commission, City of Lacey Human Services Commission, City of Olympia Social Justice Committee, and City of Tumwater staff and representatives. The meeting is scheduled for September 22, 2025, at the Thurston County Fairgrounds.

10. Adjourn

Chair Sauer adjourned the meeting at 7:45 p.m.

Approved October 27, 2025