



## Commission on Equity Approved Minutes

---

Monday, April 27, 2026

Council Chambers and Online

---

### 1. Call to Order

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

### 2. Roll Call

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:** Chair Thelma Jackson, Vice Chair Makieda Hart (remote), Commissioners Annie Clay, Raul Garza, Jon Hegwood (remote), Kim Sauer, and Youth Representative Michelle Ewig (present after 5:39 p.m.)

**COMMISSIONERS EXCUSED:** Commissioner Clifton Brown

**STAFF PRESENT:** Assistant City Manager Shannon Kelley-Fong, Equity and Inclusion Program Manager Veronica Hand, and City Clerk Elissa Fontaine

### 3. Land Acknowledgement

Commissioner Clay presented the abbreviated Land Acknowledgement.

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

- A. Approval of **Amended\*** Agenda
- B. Approval of March 26, 2026, meeting minutes
- C. 2026 Lacey Youth Council Meeting Takeaways

**Vice Chair Hart moved to approve the agenda as amended to include Item 6.B - Thurston County Representative Introduction, previous meeting minutes, and the consent agenda. Commissioner Garza seconded. The motion carried.**

### 5. Public Comment

No verbal or written public comment was received.

### 6. Inspirational Item

- A. Commissioner Annie Clay

Commissioner Clay quoted Corey Booker, United States Senator from New Jersey, emphasizing that diversity is a source of strength and power.

- B. **\*Thurston County Representative Introduction - Item added on April 27, 2026**  
Kenny Yarbrough, Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility Senior Program Manager, Thurston County

Yarbrough was introduced to the Commission as the Senior Program Manager for Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging in Thurston County.

## 7. Business Items

- A. **2026 Commission on Equity Work Plan Review**  
Shannon Kelley-Fong, Assistant City Manager

Kelley-Fong presented the draft 2026 Commission on Equity Work Plan for review and discussion. The presentation included an overview of the Commission's efforts since 2022, status updates on 2025 Work Plan activities, and a summary of upcoming programs and policies for review. The Commission discussed meeting with the North Thurston Public Schools Board of Directors and reviewing the results of the employee survey.

- B. **2026 Thurston Forward DEIB Summit**  
Veronica Hand, Equity and Inclusion Manager

Hand provided a planning update for the upcoming Thurston Forward: 2026 Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging (DEIB) Summit, scheduled for May 1–2, 2026, at the South Puget Sound Community College, Lacey Campus. Discussion ensued.

## 8. Commissioner Reports

Commissioner Sauer reported that Commissioner Clay will be honored by the Soroptimist International of Olympia as a 2026 South Sound Exceptional Woman Award recipient scheduled for May 2, 2026, at the Indian Summer Golf and Country Club.

Commissioner Clay suggested including an inspirational item in the LaceyLife publication.

Chair Jackson reported on the upcoming North Thurston Public School Board of Directors meeting scheduled for April 28, 2026.

## 9. Director Report

- A. **Upcoming Events**  
Shannon Kelley-Fong, Assistant City Manager

Hand reported on the Thurston County Home Buying Expo held on April 18, 2026, at the Olympia Center.

Kelley-Fong reported on the following upcoming events:

- 2026 Thurston Forward DEIB Summit, May 1-2, 2026, at the South Sound Community College, Lacey Campus
- State of the City and Advisory Board Recognition, April 29, 2026, at the Lacey Senior Center
- Lacey Night Market, held on select Fridays in April - October, 2026, at the Lacey Depot
- Commission on Equity's next meeting will be held on June 1, 2026, due to the Memorial Day holiday.

## **10. Adjourn**

Chair Jackson adjourned the meeting at 6:41 p.m.

Approved June 1, 2026.