



Meeting Agenda

Youth Council

City Hall
601 4th Avenue E
Olympia, WA 98501

Information: 360.753.8244

Wednesday, April 15, 2026

3:30 PM

Room 207

1. CALL TO ORDER

1.A ROLL CALL

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

3.A [26-0288](#) Approval of March 18, 2026 Youth Council Meeting Minutes

Attachments: [Minutes](#)

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS

6. BUSINESS ITEMS

6.A [26-0289](#) Public Policy and Youth Engagement Discussion

7. REPORTS

8. OTHER TOPICS

9. ADJOURNMENT

Accommodations

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Youth Council

Approval of March 18, 2026 Youth Council Meeting Minutes

Agenda Date: 4/15/2026
Agenda Item Number: 3.A
File Number:26-0288

Type: minutes **Version:** 1 **Status:** In Committee

Title

Approval of March 18, 2026 Youth Council Meeting Minutes



Meeting Minutes - Draft

Youth Council

City Hall
601 4th Avenue E
Olympia, WA 98501

Information: 360.753.8244

Wednesday, March 18, 2026

3:30 PM

Room 207

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 3:30 p.m.

1.A ROLL CALL

Present: 13 - Co-Chair Nolan O'Connell, Secretary Sophia Park, Councilmember Eman Haroon, Councilmember Gretchen Hillier, Vice Chair Varshana Horback, Councilmember Pamela Palmerson, Councilmember Gian Pama, Treasurer Addy Pitman, Vice Chair Kaelyn Velazquez, Councilmember Alania Wettstein, Councilmember Amelia Eslinger, Councilmember Amelia Leham and Councilmember Zian Zaho

Excused: 7 - Councilmember Eric Zhang, Councilmember Demorie Joseph, Vice Chair Shruthi Lingam-Nattamai, Councilmember Elizabeth Mendoza, Councilmember Toby Wilson, Councilmember Anika Prabakar and Co-Chair Donovan Jojola

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

3.A [26-0225](#) Approval of February 18, 2026 Youth Council Meeting Minutes

The minutes were approved.

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS - None

CHECK IN ACTIVITY

6. BUSINESS ITEMS

6.A [26-0223](#) Olympia Sanctuary City Status and Olympia Police Department Briefing

Police Chief Shelby Parker and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Coordinator Keli Drake briefed the Youth Council on Sanctuary City policies and how the Olympia Police Department supports those policies.

Youth Councilmembers asked clarifying questions.

The information was received.

- 6.B** [26-0224](#) Receive an Update and Discuss Concepts Regarding Intercity Transit Public Service Announcement Project

Digital Engagement Manager Josh Linn and Video Specialist Zhuolin Hong shared concepts related to a Public Service Announcement regarding riding the bus. Youth Councilmembers shared feedback and ideas related to the concepts.

The discussion was completed.

7. REPORTS

Staff Liaison Susan Grisham shared an update on Youth Summit Planning.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:20 p.m.



City Council

Public Policy and Youth Engagement Discussion

Agenda Date: 4/15/2026
Agenda Item Number: 6.A
File Number:26-0289

Type: decision **Version:** 1 **Status:** In Committee

Title

Public Policy and Youth Engagement Discussion

Recommended Action

Discuss how public policy is communicated to youth and identify recommendations to make it more accessible, engaging, and relevant to youth in Olympia.

Report

Issue:

Whether to discuss how public policy is communicated to youth and identify recommendations to make it more accessible, engaging, and relevant to youth in Olympia.

Staff Contact:

Susan Grisham, Youth Council Liaison, 360.753.8441

Presenter(s):

Susan Grisham, Youth Council Liaison

Background and Analysis:

Youth Councilmembers expressed the desire to explore how public policy information is shared with youth and how those approaches can be improved.

Staff will facilitate a discussion designed to center youth perspectives and will explore:

- How youth currently receive information about public policy
- What makes policy confusing, inaccessible, or unengaging
- What communication styles, formats, and platforms are most effective

Staff will document key themes and recommendations identified by Youth Council members, including:

- Barriers to understanding public policy
- Preferred communication methods and platforms
- Language, tone, and formats that resonate with youth

The recommendations will be shared with the City Council, City Manager and City Communications team to inform future City communication strategies and support more effective youth engagement.

Climate Analysis:

There are no direct climate impacts associated with this discussion.

Equity Analysis:

This item advances equity by centering youth voices in identifying barriers to accessing public information and shaping more inclusive communication practices.

Neighborhood/Community Interests (if known):

This discussion reflects Youth Council interest in increasing youth awareness of and engagement with City policies and decisions.

Financial Impact:

There is no financial impact related to this item.

Options:

1. Discuss how public policy is communicated to youth and identify recommendations to make it more accessible, engaging, and relevant to youth in Olympia.
2. Do not discuss how public policy is communicated to youth and identify recommendations to make it more accessible, engaging, and relevant to youth in Olympia.
3. Take other action.

Attachments:

None