



Meeting Agenda

Youth Council

City Hall
601 4th Avenue E
Olympia, WA 98501
Information: 360.753.8244

Wednesday, January 21, 2026

3:30 PM

Room 207

1. CALL TO ORDER

1.A ROLL CALL

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

3.A [26-0067](#) Approval of the December 17, 2025 Youth Council Meeting Minutes

Attachments: [Minutes](#)

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS

5. CHECK IN ACTIVITY

6. BUSINESS ITEMS

6.A [26-0066](#) Election and Approval of 2026 Youth Council Leadership Positions

Attachments: [Subcommittees and Leadership Positions Description](#)

6.B [26-0065](#) Discuss and Recommend a 2026 Youth Council Work Plan

Attachments: [Draft Work Plan](#)

7. REPORTS

8. ADJOURNMENT

Upcoming

Accommodations

The City of Olympia is committed to the non-discriminatory treatment of all persons in employment and the delivery of services and resources. If you require accommodation for your attendance at the City Advisory Committee meeting, please contact the Advisory Committee staff liaison (contact number in the upper right corner of the agenda) at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting. For hearing impaired, please contact us by dialing the Washington State Relay Service at 7-1-1 or 1.800.833.6384.



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Youth Council

Approval of the December 17, 2025 Youth Council Meeting Minutes

Agenda Date: 1/21/2026
Agenda Item Number: 3.A
File Number:26-0067

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

Title

Approval of the December 17, 2025 Youth Council Meeting Minutes



Meeting Minutes - Draft

Youth Council

City Hall
601 4th Avenue E
Olympia, WA 98501

Information: 360.753.8244

Wednesday, December 17, 2025

3:30 PM

Council Chambers

Joint meeting with the Lacey Youth Council

1. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 3:37 p.m.

1.A ROLL CALL

Present: 11 - Chair Nolan O'Connell, Secretary Sophia Park, Councilmember Gretchen Hillier, Councilmember Varshana Horback, Councilmember Shruthi Lingam-Nattamai, Councilmember Kaelyn Velazquez, Councilmember Alania Wettstein, Councilmember Amelia Eslinger, Councilmember Amelia Leham, Councilmember Donovan Jojola and Councilmember Zian Zaho

Excused: 9 - Treasurer Eric Zhang, Councilmember Eman Haroon, Councilmember Demorie Joseph, Councilmember Elizabeth Mendoza, Councilmember Pamela Palmerson, Councilmember Gian Pama, Councilmember Addy Pitman, Councilmember Toby Wilson and Councilmember Anika Prabakar

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

3.A [25-1047](#) Approval of November 19, 2025 Youth Council Meeting Minutes

The minutes were approved.

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS/HOUSEKEEPING

Staff Liaison Susan Grisham explained the different Youth Council subcommittees and leadership positions. Elections for leadership roles will take place in January 2026.

6. TEAM BUILDING ACTIVITY

The activity was completed.

7. BUSINESS ITEMS**7.A** [25-1068](#) Joint Meeting with the Lacey Youth Council

Olympia and Lacey Youth Councilmembers discussed ideas and goals for the 2026 Youth Council. A subcommittee consisting of councilmembers from both cities will meet to continue planning the logistics.

The discussion was completed.

8. OTHER TOPICS - None**9. ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 5:57 p.m.



Youth Council

Election and Approval of 2026 Youth Council Leadership Positions

Agenda Date: 1/21/2026
Agenda Item Number: 6.A
File Number:26-0066

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

Title

Election and Approval of 2026 Youth Council Leadership Positions

Recommended Action

Identify Youth Council members to serve in 2026 Youth Council leadership positions. Once completed move to approve a slate of Youth Council members to serve in the 2026 Youth Council leadership positions.

Report

Issue:

Whether to identify Youth Council members to serve in 2026 Youth Council leadership positions and approve those members to serve as 2026 Youth Council.

Staff Contact:

Susan Grisham, Assistant to the City Manager

Presenter(s):

Nolan O'Connell, Chair, Youth Council

Background and Analysis:

The Youth Council holds annual elections to fill leadership positions critical to the council's operations. The positions include Chair, Chair Pro Tem, Secretary, Treasurer, and three Vice Chairs for Communications, Policy, and Outreach. These roles ensure effective governance, facilitate meetings, coordinate subcommittee activities, and represent youth interests in community decision-making.

Climate Analysis:

This item does not have any impact on the City's Climate work.

Equity Analysis:

The Youth Council's election process prioritizes inclusivity by allowing self-nominations and multiple nominations per position.

Neighborhood/Community Interests (if known):

There are no known community interests related to this item.

Options:

1. Move to approve a slate of Youth Council members to serve in the 2026 Youth Council leadership positions.
2. Move to approve a slate of Youth Council members to serve in the 2026 Youth Council leadership positions with amendments.
3. Take no action (not recommended, as leadership positions would remain vacant).

Financial Impact:

There is no direct financial impact associated with the elections. All activities were conducted using existing Youth Council meeting resources.

Attachments:

Subcommittees and Leadership Positions Description

Youth Council

Subcommittees and Leadership Positions



Subcommittees

Communications Subcommittee

Manages how the Youth Council shares information. Members create social media content, newsletters, flyers, and announcements, helping amplify youth voices and keep the community informed.

Policy Subcommittee

Researches issues impacting youth and develops policy recommendations on behalf of the Youth Council. Members analyze data, gather youth input, and help shape positions that inform decision-makers and community leaders.

Outreach Subcommittee

Focuses on connecting the Youth Council with the broader community. Members plan outreach efforts, build partnerships with schools and ensure youth from diverse backgrounds are informed, involved, and heard.

Leadership Positions

Chair

Leads the Youth Council by facilitating meetings, setting agendas, and representing the council to the community and decision-makers.

Chair Pro Tem

Assists the Chair and assumes leadership responsibilities in the Chair's absence to ensure continuity.

Secretary

Ensures accurate documentation of council activities when necessary.

Treasurer

Oversees the Youth Council's budget and tracks financial activity to ensure responsible use of funds.

Vice Chair, Communications Subcommittee

Leads council communications efforts, including social media, newsletters, and public announcements.

Vice Chair, Policy Subcommittee

Leads research on youth issues and coordinates the development of policy recommendations.

Vice Chair, Outreach Subcommittee

Leads community engagement efforts and builds partnerships to ensure diverse youth participation.



Youth Council

Discuss and Recommend a 2026 Youth Council Work Plan

Agenda Date: 1/21/2026
Agenda Item Number: 6.B
File Number:26-0065

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

Title

Discuss and Recommend a 2026 Youth Council Work Plan

Recommended Action

Discuss and move the recommend a 2026 Youth Council Work Plan to the Community Livability and Public Safety Committee for recommendation to the full City Council for approval.

Report

Issue:

Whether to Discuss and move to recommend a 2026 Youth Council Work Plan to the Community Livability and Public Safety Committee for recommendation to the full City Council for approval.

Staff Contact:

Susan Grisham, Assistant to the City Manager, Youth Council Liaison, 360.753.8244

Presenter(s):

Susan Grisham, Assistant to the City Manager, Youth Council Liaison

Background and Analysis:

Each year, the Youth Council is responsible for putting together an annual work plan which will be presented to the Community Livability and Public Safety Committee for review and recommendation to the full City Council for approval. Items on the work plan should reflect the goals of the Youth Council.

The Youth Council serves as an advisory body to elevate youth perspectives in City decision-making. Consistent with the City's equity, inclusion, and community engagement goals, the Youth Council identified topics that prioritize both policy learning and applied civic engagement.

Youth have identified barriers to engagement including complex policy language, limited awareness of city programs, and a lack of accessible spaces for participation. This work plan responds to those challenges by pairing policy briefings with tangible projects that translate learning into action.

The Youth Council identified five priority briefing topics based on youth concerns, community relevance, and alignment with City initiatives:

1. Mental Health Accessibility and Resources for Youth

Focus on understanding available services, barriers to access, and opportunities to improve youth awareness and utilization of resources.

2. Public Safety in Olympia

Briefing of public safety, including Reimagining Public Safety.

3. Olympia Sanctuary City

Education on Olympia's sanctuary policies.

4. Youth Homelessness

Briefing on youth homelessness.

5. Olympia Climate Programs

Overview of the City's climate initiatives.

Each briefing will include presentations from City staff or community partners, youth discussion, and the development of youth-informed summaries or recommendations.

In addition to policy briefings, the Youth Council will undertake the following projects:

1. Transit PSA

In conjunction with the City Communications Team and Intercity Transit, develop a public service announcement to encourage and educate peers about riding the bus system. This will coincide with changes being implemented by Intercity Transit in the spring.

2. Youth Engagement: Communicating Public Policy to Youth

Development of youth-friendly explanations of City policies to assist with social media planning for the Youth Council.

3. Youth Summit

The Olympia Youth Council is partnering with the City of Lacey to plan a regional Youth Summit aimed at engaging young people in civic dialogue, community issues, and leadership development.

4. Social Media Presence

Continued development of a consistent Youth Council social media presence to share resources, promote engagement opportunities, and communicate with youth perspectives.

5. Creation of Third Places

Exploration of youth-defined "third places" (non-school, non-home spaces) through youth input and mapping existing spaces.

Climate Analysis:

This action does not impact climate outcomes.

Equity Analysis:

Based on data from the Washington State Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction's "Report Card", minority enrollment in Olympia's schools is at 40% and approximately 20% of students are economically disadvantaged. (This data does not include students who are not in traditional schools, like home school or G.E.D programs.) One of the main goals of a Youth Council is to engage and lift up voices and perspectives of people who are often excluded from decision making and lack access to power.

Neighborhood/Community Interests (if known):

Youth in Olympia have expressed an interest in participating in decision making that effects their future.

Options:

1. Discuss and move the recommend a 2026 Youth Council Work Plan to the Community Livability and Public Safety Committee for recommendation to the full City Council for approval.
2. Discuss and move the recommend a 2026 Youth Council Work Plan to the Community Livability and Public Safety Committee for recommendation to the full City Council for approval.
3. Discuss a 2026 Youth Council Work Plan and continue the discussion at another meeting.

Attachments:

Draft Work Plan

Draft City of Olympia Youth Council – 2026 Work Plan

January 21, 2026 – Business Meeting

- Election of Officers
- Approval of Youth Council Work Plan
- Youth Summit Planning

February 18, 2025 – Business Meeting

- Intercity Transit briefing on changes to the bus system
- Transit PSA Development Discussion
- Youth Summit Planning

Mar 18, 2025 – Business Meeting

- Olympia Sanctuary City Briefing
- Public Safety Briefing
- Transit PSA Development Check-in
- Youth Summit Planning

April 15 – Business Meeting

- Youth Engagement: Communicating Public Policy to Youth Discussion
- Youth Summit Planning
- Transit PSA Development Check-in

May 5 – YOUTH SUMMIT

May 20 – Business Meeting

- Mental Health Resources for Youth Briefing (Product:
- Youth Summit Debrief
- Recruitment Check-in

June – No Business Meeting

July – No Business Meeting

August 19 - Business Meeting

- Olympia Climate Programs Briefing
- Third Places for Youth Discussion
- 2026 Work Plan Discussion

September 19 – Business Meeting

- Welcome New Members/Team Building
- 2026 Work Plan Discussion

October 14 – Business Meeting - 207

- Year Accomplishments Overview/Celebration
- 2026 Work Plan Discussion

November – No Meeting**December – No Meeting**