



Meeting Agenda

Social Justice & Equity Commission

City Hall
601 4th Avenue E
Olympia, WA 98501

Contact: Margo Morales
(360)753-8150

Monday, April 20, 2026

6:00 PM

Room 112, City Hall

1. CALL TO ORDER

1.A ROLL CALL

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- 3.A** [26-0292](#) Approval of February 9, 2026 Social Justice and Equity Commission Meeting Minutes

Attachments: [Minutes](#)

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

During this portion of the meeting, community members may address the Advisory Committee or Commission regarding items related to City business, including items on the Agenda. In order for the Committee or Commission to comply with Public Disclosure Law for political campaigns, speakers will not be permitted to make public comments before the Committee or Commission where the speaker promotes or opposes a candidate for public office or a ballot measure.

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS

6. BUSINESS ITEMS

- 6.A** [26-0291](#) Discussion of Recommendations Related to City Council Appointed Advisory Bodies

7. REPORTS

8. OTHER TOPICS

9. 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.



City Hall
601 4th Avenue E.
Olympia, WA 98501
360-753-8244

Social Justice & Equity Commission
**Approval of February 9, 2026 Social Justice
and Equity Commission Meeting Minutes**

Agenda Date: 4/20/2026
Agenda Item Number: 3.A
File Number:26-0292

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

Title

Approval of February 9, 2026 Social Justice and Equity Commission Meeting Minutes



Meeting Minutes - Draft

Social Justice & Equity Commission

City Hall
601 4th Avenue E
Olympia, WA 98501

Contact: Margo Morales
(360)753-8150

Monday, February 9, 2026

6:00 PM

Council Chambers, City Hall

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Robin Rosen-Evans called the meeting to order at 6:16 p.m.

1.A ROLL CALL

Present: 9 - Chair Robin Rosen-Evans, Vice Chair Marianne Ozmun-Wells, Commissioner Karin Arnold, Commissioner Kevin Mattison, Commissioner Fauziya Mohamedali, Commissioner Dr. Amna Qazi, Commissioner Kieran Stilson, Commissioner Jeremy Ruse and Commissioner Ceasar Plasencia

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes were approved.

- 3.A** [26-0105](#) Approval of January 26, 2026 Social Justice and Equity Commission Meeting Minutes

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

The following people spoke: Veronica Hand

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Staff reminded Commissioners about the deadline for updating their stipend certificates. Staff also shared save the dates for two upcoming regional events, the Home Buyer's Expo on April 18, 2026 and the Thurston Forward DEIB Summit on May 1-2, 2026.

Commissioner OzmunWells shared about an upcoming projects from the Department of Licensing related to sanctuary state designation.

6. BUSINESS ITEMS

- 6.A** [26-0104](#) 2026-2027 Social Justice & Equity Commission Work Plan

Commissioners discussed having common understanding of terms like "community engagement" and developing measures of what success looks like. Commissioners also asked questions about the opportunity to develop actionable steps as part of the work plan topics.

Recommended the draft 2026-2027 Social Justice and Equity Commission Work Plan for approval by the City Council Community Livability & Public Safety Committee.

Aye: 8 - Chair Rosen-Evans, Commissioner Arnold, Commissioner Mattison, Commissioner Mohamedali, Commissioner Qazi, Commissioner Stilson, Commissioner Ruse and Commissioner Plasencia

Abstained: 1 - Vice Chair Ozmun-Wells

7. REPORTS

Commissioners shared about the Police Chief's visit to the local mosque last week and shared feedback from the February 5, 2026 regional meeting.

8. OTHER TOPICS

Staff shared the City's Safety Guidance for Interactions with ICE flier as a resource to share with community members. Staff also discussed upcoming small group coffee meetings for commissioner relationship building.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Upcoming

Accommodations



Social Justice & Equity Commission

Discussion of Recommendations Related to City Council Appointed Advisory Bodies

Agenda Date: 4/20/2026
Agenda Item Number: 6.A
File Number:26-0291

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

Title

Discussion of Recommendations Related to City Council Appointed Advisory Bodies

Recommended Action

Discuss recommendations related to City Council appointed advisory bodies.

Report

Issue:

Whether to discuss recommendations related to City Council appointed advisory bodies.

Staff Contact:

Margo Morales, Community Engagement Program Specialist, Organizational Development and Performance, 360.753.8150

Presenter(s):

Margo Morales, Community Engagement Program Specialist

Background and Analysis:

The City is committed to meaningful and inclusive engagement. Council Appointed-Advisory Bodies are a key component of this effort, providing community perspectives to support City Council in formulating public policy and making decisions on specific programs. The City of Olympia currently has 14 standing bodies with nearly 100 volunteers.

Over time, engagement strategies have adapted based on experience and the development of more sophisticated tools and techniques.. A comprehensive evaluation of Council-Appointed bodies hasn't been performed, so in 2025 staff undertook an evaluation an analysis to learn if there are opportunities to enhance their effectiveness.

On May 14, 2025, the Community Livability and Public Safety Committee (CLPS) discussed the

findings of an analysis on Council Appointed Advisory Bodies. The purpose of the analysis was to assess the effectiveness of how well Council Appointed Bodies are serving the Council, Staff, and volunteer members. At the conclusion of the discussion, the Committee directed staff to recommend strategies to improve the effectiveness of council appointed bodies and outlined the following four goals:

1. Community members provide meaningful input to guide policy and decision-making
2. Ensure equitable and inclusive engagement
3. The experience of community members is impactful
4. Resources to support advisory bodies are sustainable

In September 2025, the City contracted with Genevieve Canceko Chan to complete a comprehensive review of the City's current public engagement and advisory body systems and to identify opportunities to improve. Genevieve built upon the work previously presented to CLPS, supplementing it with additional stakeholder meetings, and further identifying systemic issues, barriers to participation, and common challenges for both staff and community participants. She also contacted other cities that had recently, or were currently, engaged in similar evaluations of their advisory bodies. She also met with council appointed advisory body staff liaisons to share and receive feedback on draft recommendations.

On February 25, 2026 staff updated CLPS which included sharing recommendations focused on two general themes: improvements to the current system focused on administrative process improvements, and a scenario that introduces additional engagement opportunities and multidisciplinary approach to some of the Advisory Bodies. At the conclusion of the briefing, CLPS directed staff to further explore these recommendations.

The purpose of this agenda item is for the Social Justice and Equity Commission (SJEC) to provide feedback to staff on these recommendations, with particular attention on how they address equitable and inclusive engagement. The Commission's feedback will inform the final draft recommendation which will be presented to CLPS on May 27, 2026.

Climate Analysis:

This discussion is not expected to have an impact on greenhouse gas emissions.

Equity Analysis:

Public engagement that is equitable and inclusive of diverse community member perspectives is foundational to building trust in government, formulating effective policies, and developing programs that best meet community needs and priorities. The assessment of the current advisory body system is intended to identify barriers to participation and explore additional engagement strategies to allow for more diverse perspectives to be represented in Council and staff decision-making.

Neighborhood/Community Interests (if known):

The Olympia community has a high interest in participating in local government decision making. Advisory bodies have historically provided opportunities for more direct Council engagement with the community around policy decisions and Council decision-making. Over the last several years, however, staff and Council have explored and experienced success in using a variety of other ways in which to engage community members, broadening the voices and perspectives represented in planning efforts and community conversations.

Options:

Discussion only.

Financial Impact:

There is no cost associated with the action. To reduce barriers to community member participation, the City offers stipends of \$25 per advisory body meeting attended to eligible members. Those members who certify as low income are eligible to receive stipends of \$50 per meeting attended. Advisory body members may waive the stipend. In 2025, the total cost of stipends was \$11,425.

Attachments:

None