



IDEA ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

March 17, 2025

Present: Chris Paul, BJ Park, Erinn Stimson, Evelin Hooper, Kolini Fuitu'a, Rebekah Morgan, Sunni Case Armstrong, Winnie Lo (virtual), Councilor Christen Sacco

Absent: Angelica Butler, Destini Barajas, Gerry Preston, Kelsea Ashenbrenner

Public: Cosi Slider

Staff: Jerianne Thompson, Library Director / Equity & Inclusion Officer
Betsy Rodriguez Ruef, Community Engagement Coordinator

A. CALL TO ORDER

Chris Paul called the meeting to order at 6:10 PM.

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chris Paul called for any corrections to the February minutes. Erinn Stimson moved to accept the February 2025 meeting minutes; Rebekah Morgan seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

C. COMMUNICATIONS

1. Co-Chairs: Chris Paul introduced Cozy Slider, who was being recommended for the student position on the committee. City Council is scheduled to vote on her appointment at their March 24 meeting. Chris also announced that officer elections would be held during this meeting. This includes the secretary role, proposed to assist with committee communications and organizing social activities.

2. Council Liaison: Councilor Christen Sacco provided several updates, including that the Veterans Plaza at the Commons is now open and the annual State of the City is scheduled for April 23 at the Grand Hotel. She shared about public comment given in support of the Transgender Day of Visibility Proclamation, including comments made by Chris Paul. City Council voted to adopt the proclamation at its March 24 meeting. She also shared information about grant recipient Meals on Wheels, which operates out of the Juanita Pohl Center two days a week, providing meal delivery and friendly social interactions.

3. Staff: Jerianne Thompson announced that the May committee meeting date is changed to May 13 because of a conflict with the Budget Committee. She addressed concerns about potential impacts to the City from actions being taken at the federal level. She said that the IDEA Committee is not at risk of being discontinued and the City has no plans to change its approach related to inclusion, diversity, equity, and access. Some grant funding for projects has been frozen or put on hold, including a multi-million dollar grant for electric vehicle charging stations and related the police department building.

Betsy Rodriguez Ruef shared information about upcoming Community Involvement Organization meetings, which bring neighbors together to discuss local Issues and stay informed. Jerianne and Betsy reviewed the nominations received for the co-chair and secretary positions.

4. Public: None.

D. OLD BUSINESS

1. Workplan Topic Prioritization: Jerianne Thompson reviewed the focus areas chosen by the committee for its workplan and led a dot voting exercise to prioritize the topics. Committee members each received five dots and could vote on topics more than once, with votes also collected from virtual participants. The topics receiving the most votes were:

- Gathering Places - 8 votes
- Public Participation - 7 votes
- Community Groups - 7 votes
- Housing - 7 votes

Jerianne led the committee in a review of proposed actions, and committee members discussed additional Ideas. For Gathering Places, the committee discussed improving existing spaces like parks to make them more accessible and inclusive, suggested creating an inventory of available community spaces and reviewing the reservation process and fees charged, and asked about developing a community center. Ideas discussed for Public Participation included offering community workshops to educate residents about City committees and processes, brainstorming ways to reach out to underrepresented communities and those who may not typically engage in public affairs, and creating informational displays or interactive kiosks in public spaces like the Library. Regarding Housing, the committee expressed interest in learning more about what the City can and cannot control, as well as the level of homeless and unsheltered people living in Tualatin and the resources available. Committee members also expressed interest in visiting Plambeck Gardens, a new affordable housing complex.

E. NEW BUSINESS

1. Election of Officers: Staff distributed paper ballots for the two co-chair and one secretary positions, with virtual participants voting via chat. Chris Paul and BJ Park were re-elected as co-chairs and Rebekah Morgan was elected secretary.

F. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

1. Committee Workplan: The committee will continue reviewing potential actions for the workplan.

G. COMMUNICATIONS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Erinn Stimson announced this year's Dystonia Zoo Walk will be held July 26. Councilor Christen Sacco suggested creating a calendar of important dates and events for the committee. Kolini Fusitu'a shared information about an upcoming Marshallese community open house at the consulate general office in Tigard.

H. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 7:50 PM.

Minutes prepared by Jerianne Thompson & Betsy Ruef, staff