



# City of Bellingham

## Keep Washington Working Act Work Group Meeting Minutes

March 25, 2025, 4:00 PM

### Board Members

*Board members present:*

Rebecca Agiewich

Eamon Bollinger

Ian Garconnette

Catalina Hope

Holly Pai

Scott Powell

Krystal Rodriguez

Abigail Senutu

*Board members absent: none*

### Ex-officio Members Present:

Katy Potts, Western Washington University Police Chief

Rebecca Mertzig, Bellingham Police Chief

Bill Hewett, Bellingham Fire Chief

Justin Rasmussen, Acting What-Comm Deputy Director

Hannah Stone, Bellingham City Councilmember

Sarah Chaplin, Assistant City Attorney

Deborah Bineza, Mayor's Office Strategic Initiatives Manager for Equity and Belonging

### Other City of Bellingham Staff and Officials Present

Mayor Kim Lund

Janice Keller, Deputy Administrator

Paul Knox, Facilitator and Chair

Jackie Weller, Legislative Office Manager

**Paul Knox called the meeting to order at 4:02 PM**

### Welcome and Introductions

Mayor Kim Lund, Council Member Hannah Stone, and facilitator Paul Knox welcomed members and attendees to the space and gave a brief introduction to the work. They each introduced themselves, shared their background in relation to this work, and briefly gave information on how the group came to be and members' roles.

Members, ex-officio members, and staff took turns to give a couple sentences on what they love about Bellingham and why they are participating on this board.

### Keep Washington Working Act Advisory Group Overview

Council Member Stone and Mayor Lund gave an introduction of the work of the group and the establishing resolution, including:

- The group is tasked with bringing clarity on what being in compliance with KWW means
- Bellingham can become a model for other jurisdictions, but we have a lot of work to do
- Scope of work for the group represents important issues that became clear through work with IAB and others



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- Clarified that members are the only ones with voting privileges. Others, including ex-officio members, are here for support. Paul Knox, as a neutral facilitator, is here to guide work without a power imbalance.
- Emphasized importance to hold space for trust building
- Work will not be easy and will be affected by outside events on an ongoing basis.

Paul Knox gave a brief presentation that gave an overview on:

- Today's focus
- Next meeting
- Work Group Purpose / Scope of Work (as described in resolution)

Members discussed the scope of work, clarifying the jurisdiction of the City of Bellingham compared with other entities, such as the school districts or other cities in Whatcom County. It was explained that, other entities are important partners, the work of this work group will be focused on the City of Bellingham. Information on this group's work can be shared with those partners.

### Open Public Meetings Act Training

Sarah Chaplin, senior assistant city attorney and ex-officio member, presented a training on the Washington State Open Public Meetings Act and Public Records Act.

### Discussion to Prepare for Future Meetings

Paul asked what everyone needs to be present and prepared at each meeting. Members' responses included:

- Snacks
- Materials ahead of time with instructions
- An established meeting schedule with as much advance notice of upcoming meetings as possible.

Paul asked if there any questions that should be addressed at future meetings. Members and staff discussed members' potential participation on other boards or task forces, sharing information from this group with others, and what information can be found on the website for the group.

**The meeting was adjourned at 6:01 PM**