



City of Bellingham
Immigration Advisory Board Meeting
August 18, 2020, 6:30 PM

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:33 PM

Board Members

Present:

Monika Cassidy
Maria Isabel Cortes-Zamora
Liz Darrow
Rick Qualls
Bridget Reeves
Ada Rumford
Danielle Siedlecki
Rev. Seth Thomas

Absent:

Jahn Zuniga Escobar
Ramon Barba Torres
Katie Winkelman

Liaison to the City Council: Councilmember Hannah Stone

Spanish Interpretation: Alex Perez

There is an audio recording of this meeting. Times in brackets [] indicate the start time on the recording for each section. See <https://cob.org/gov/public/bc/immigration-advisory-board-materials> to listen to the recording.

Welcome, Logistics, and Minutes [00.16]

- Councilmember Hannah Stone welcomed the group
- Consecutive Interpretation will be provided between the English to Spanish languages. This will allow all board members to participate fully, facilitate participation by Spanish-speaking members of the public, and create an audio recording in both languages for future reference by both board members and the public. Speakers are reminded to pause for interpretation after 1-2 sentences.
- Facilitation of the meeting will rotate. Hannah Stone agreed to serve as facilitator for this meeting. Liz Darrow agreed to facilitate the September meeting.

- The meeting agenda was approved as published
- The minutes for the July 23 meeting were approved as presented

Board Discussion Items [10:01]

- Board Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. Members discussed how best to work together given the diverse backgrounds and perspectives represented on the Board. Members reviewed the language in the underlying Ordinance that formed the Board and discussed the purpose of the board.
 - The operative language from the resolution reads, “The purpose of the Board is to review and evaluate existing policies and make specific recommendations regarding City policy related to immigration matters. This evaluation will include, but is not limited to, analysis of City data to determine compliance with E2SSB 5497. The Board will make recommendations for further data to be compiled in order to facilitate its recommendations. In addition, the Board shall support community involvement in and discussion of regional issues and decisions about our city's future as it relates to immigration.”
- Timelines for meetings. [40:35] Agenda items and support materials need to be submitted two weeks in advance to allow time for translation and public distribution in advance of the meeting.
- Open Public Meetings Act training. [42:00] Board members are to complete the training on their own time and notify City staff when completed.
- Action items: Discussion of Federal Contacts Data/Need for Additional Meetings [43:00]
 - The Federal Contact Data provided to the Board is inconclusive. Several Board members requested additional data points to include outcomes and additional details from other jurisdictions.
 - Bellingham Deputy Administrator Brian Heinrich provides the Federal Contacts Data to the Board each month. He will be invited to the next Board Meeting to provide clarification and answer questions.
 - Additional meetings of the full Board are possible but would require City staff presence, agenda, minutes, translation, interpretation, and public notice. The same two-week lead time would be needed for translation of documents and scheduling the interpreter.
 - Informal groups of two or three board members can meet to do research and then report back to the full Board with any findings during the next open public meeting.

Public Comment [1:28:42]

Members of the public provided comment to the board.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:33 p.m.

A recording of this meeting with additional details of discussion is posted at:

<https://cob.org/gov/public/bc/immigration-advisory-board-materials>

Next Meeting: Tuesday, September 15th 6:30-8:30 p.m.