



**City of Bellingham**  
**Immigration Advisory Board Meeting Minutes**  
September 21, 2021, 6:30 PM

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**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM

**Board Members**

*Present:*

Liz Darrow

Holly Pai

Maria Isabel Cortes-Zamora

Ada Rumford

Monika Cassidy

Bridget Reeves

Australia Tobon

Danielle Siedlecki

Jagwinder Gill

*Absent:*

Ramon Barba Torres

John Baker

Marciano Sanchez Lopez

*Spanish Interpretation: Marny "Debby" Barrau*

*Russian Interpretation: Alfia Logunova*

*Punjabi Interpretation: Ekinderjit "Piku" Dhillon*

*City Council Staff: Nalini Margaitis*

*City Council Liaison: Hannah Stone*

**There is an audio/ video 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, and New Board Member Introduction [00:011]**

- Nalini Margaitis welcomed the group.
- Nalini Margaitis and tri-facilitators facilitated this meeting.
- Minutes for the August 17, 2021 meeting were approved as written.

**Public Comment [6:02-26:15]**

### **City Council response to the January 28, 2021 letter (Ada Rumford) [26:16]**

- No response from City Council re the January 28, 2021 letter
- Hannah Stone was hoping for a response and interest from other Councilmembers (she will issue a formal written response to the Board) – meanwhile, she is trying to bring the issues that the letter raised in an agenda bill to look at mutual aid agreements, looking at how the aid agreements are carried out and what standing the city policy has (if anytime the City partners with the county, would border patrol be present?) – there has been resistance to having those discussions, but she is still working on that and hopeful to bring it to Council before the end of the year.

### **IAB Timeline (Liz Darrow) [26:46]**

- Liz Darrow shared a timeline of the IAB (2019- C2C writes ordinance to create an Immigration Advisory Board, support from Hannah Stone and Council passed the ordinance 7-0. IAB officially established on 11/4/2019). Ultimate goal: transparency and protection for immigrants that live and work in the community via oversight and safety mechanisms.
- The timeline is located online: <https://cob.org/wp-content/uploads/IAB-Timeline.pdf>

### **New Member Orientation (John Baker) [34:27]**

- John Baker absent, Liz Darrow presented his outline for New Member Orientation

### **Report: Meeting with Seth Fleetwood and next steps for the IRC [47:50]**

- Mayor had to reschedule meeting (now, Oct 5) – will be included in following agenda

### **Subcommittee Reports [39:20]**

- Process Subcommittee Report (Liz, John, Holly): Holly Pai shared the agenda and notes from the subcommittee meeting – formalized orientation to orient new member (timeline, procedural rules, agenda, OPMA, opportunities for subcommittees, etc.); Suggestion for facilitators to operate in staggered terms with an experienced member; retreat for IAB members; Holly will send out Doodle poll for availability; process to respond to public comment, how to respond to comments received by email in between meetings; federal contacts data- request a Board member to be a point person to obtain results (Bridget Reeves volunteered for this role); quarterly meetings with the Mayor and City Council; term limits for IAB members
- IRC [58:22]: Danielle Siedlecki reported on the changes in the draft ordinance and read them aloud [59:14-1:03:50] – the Board agreed to share the outline (not the draft) with the Mayor

### **Report: Federal immigration policy in the budget (Liz Darrow) [1:28:54]**

- Effort made to fit immigration reform into the budget reconciliation processes, however it included criminal bars – straightforward pathway to citizenship
- Senate parliamentarian said “no”, b/c its broad policy change (not allowed in the budget)

- The House may move forward with previous proposals (Senate would need super majority) – worse case scenario: go back to farm workforce modernization act
- Proposed legislation on DACA and TPS – how easy it is to get excluded with interaction with law enforcement (and farmworkers: if employer does not vouch for you, you do not qualify)
- House will try to update the date of the registry (from 1972 to 2010) – could also exclude a lot of farmworkers, because there are a lot of migrant workers
- Cities for Action has a useful toolkit to get involved/informed (rural workers are not getting recognized in DC) – encourage to contact state representative
- In WA State: Don't want to expand H2A or mandate E-Verify
- Deadline for proposals: Sept 30, 2021

**Flyer (Ada Rumford) [1:47:58]**

- Ada shared the flyer with the Board (“Affect positive change in your community”)

**The meeting adjourned at 8:23 PM**

**Recordings of this meeting with additional details of discussion is posted at:**

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