



City of Bellingham

Keep Washington Working Act Work Group Meeting Minutes

April 29, 2026, 5:30 PM

Board Members Present:

Rebecca Agiewich

Eamon Bollinger

Ian Garconnette

Catalina Hope

Holly Pai

Scott Powell

Abigail Senuty

Board Members Absent:

Krystal Rodriguez

Ex-officio Members Present:

Deborah Bineza, Strategic Initiatives Manager
for Equity and Belonging

Rebecca Mertzig, Bellingham Police Chief

Katy Potts, Western Washington Chief of Police

Justin Rasmussen, WhatComm Deputy Director

Hannah Stone, City Council President

City of Bellingham Staff, Officials, and Others Present:

Janice Keller, Deputy City Administrator

Paul Knox, Facilitator and Chair

Kim Lund, Mayor

Jackie Weller, Legislative Office Manager

Paul Knox called the meeting to order at 5:34 p.m.

Welcome

Paul Knox summarized the agenda and the goals for the meeting.

Final approval of report

Paul thanked the members for reviewing the report and offering their feedback. Paul asked if anyone had any additional changes to make. Changes requested were:

- On page 11, change the last paragraph as follows: "Of 527 entries, the Work Group found that at least about 3% clearly involved immigration matters and ~~more than~~ about 25% lacked enough detail to determine relevance. ~~Over~~ approximately 10% involved..."
- In appendix J, change "wellness check" to "welfare check"
- In the Background section on page 6, change the last sentence of the second paragraph to read: "The KWW prohibits local law enforcement agencies and other state and local government entities from taking the following actions:..."
- Change the last sentence of the last paragraph on page 15 as follows: "While, the primary purpose of HB 2015 was to enhance local public safety funding, ~~but~~ the program..."
- On page 7, include the language that Holly Pai submitted regarding the cease and desist letter. This language was already approved by group members, but mistakenly omitted in the final draft.

Catalina Hope moved approval of the final report. Ian Garconnette seconded the motion. Motion passed with none opposed.

Paul thanked group members for their work in writing the report.

Discuss and plan presentation to City Council

Group members reviewed the draft presentation slides, as prepared by Eamon. They suggested minor changes and discussed how to best continue working on the presentation. It was decided that Eamon, Ian, and Catalina would meet as a small group to finalize the PowerPoint slides. Once finished, they will send to City staff, who will put the information on a PowerPoint template and offer minor proof reading and editing suggestions. The final slides will be sent to other group members by May 10th.

At least one member from each sub-group will be at the Council meeting and will either present or be there to answer questions. Presenting members should come prepared and know what part they are presenting. Hannah Stone reminded the group that Spanish interpreters will be working at the meeting, so they should try to speak slowly. She also offered to have the members come in early to get acquainted with the space and what it's like to present in the room.

Final thoughts and minutes approval

Scott Powell moved to approve the minutes. Ian Garconnette seconded the motion. Motion passed with none opposed

Members, the Mayor, City staff, and Paul Knox offered final words of thanks to each other.

Paul adjourned at 6:39 p.m.

Note: Because this was the last meeting of this Work Group, these minutes were not approved by the whole group. This document was shared with each group member ahead of publication and there were no suggested changes.