



# City of Bellingham

## Keep Washington Working Act Work Group Meeting Minutes

June 12, 2025, 5:30 PM

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### **Board Members**

#### ***Board members present:***

Rebecca Agiewich

Eamon Bollinger

Ian Garconnette

Catalina Hope

Scott Powell

Krystal Rodriguez

Abigail Senuty

#### ***Board members absent:***

Holly Pai

#### **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

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

#### **City of Bellingham Staff, Officials, and Others 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 5:35 PM**

#### **Welcome and Share Out / Reflections on Last Meeting**

Paul asked each member and ex-officio member give a reflection on the previous meeting or current events effecting the work.

One member commented that missing meetings is difficult because of the brevity of minutes and lack of recording. This led to a discussion on benefits and downsides of recording or taking more detailed minutes.

#### **Resolution Review and Scope of Work**

#### **Roadmap / Workplan**

#### **(These items were discussed concurrently)**

Paul explained that the roadmap document reflects his suggested outline of how the work can move forward and asked for feedback. Members asked questions and discussed, including:

- How the final report will be compiled. Janice Keller stated that members would provide



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the substance of the report, but would not be expected to write it themselves; that work will be done by Paul or another contractor.

- Timeline laid out in the roadmap – many members expressed concern that the timeline was too condensed and stated that they would support additional meetings. City staff that they would like to support members if they agreed to extend the timeline past what was originally requested of them.
- Members requested ample time to review any readings that are provided ahead of meeting days.
- Field trips will provide a rich experience for members and will provide valuable context.

#### WhatComm 911 Overview

Justin Rasmussen, Acting What-Com Deputy Director, gave a presentation to the group outlining the agency's history, structure, function, and processes. He also offered three dates and times available for members to tour the facility. Presentation slides can be found [here](#).

#### Minutes

Ian Garconnette moved to approve the May minutes. Eamon Bollinger seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-1 with Krystal Rodriguez opposed.

Expectations for future meeting minutes were discussed at the beginning of the meeting.

#### **Adjourn 7:44 PM**

*\*Note: Attached hereto as Addendum A is a written record of the modifications to this document suggested by Krystal Rodriguez. At the September 18 meeting, members voted acknowledge the suggestions by attaching them to the minutes without accepting them.*

# Addendum A

## Jackie A Weller

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**From:** Krystal Rodriguez <krystallr@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 25, 2025 4:55 PM  
**To:** Deborah C Bineza  
**Cc:** Janice L Keller; paul; Jackie A Weller; MY - mayorsoffice@cob.org  
**Subject:** Re: KWW Workgroup Draft Minutes and WhatComm Tour Info

CAUTION: This message originated from outside of this organization. Please exercise caution with links and attachments.

Thanks, Jackie.

I request the following changes to the June 12, 2025 KWW workgroup meeting minutes:

- Welcome:
  - I don't recall Paul asking about current events "affecting" work, although some did comment on that, including Ian.
  - Use my name in the second paragraph and wherever I'm referenced as a member. I think it'd be good to ask individual members if they prefer names or anonymity in these minutes.
  - Clarify that my comment wasn't about it being hard to miss meetings, but hard to know what happened when missed due to meeting minute documentation. (That feels quite a bit different.)
  - Include more details about the benefits and downsides, as follows:
    - Mayor Lund and Hannah Stone - feel maintaining more records or documenting meetings with more specificity could potentially be used by federal immigration agencies to cause harm to immigrants. They felt it may also prevent attendees from speaking up as freely.
    - Me - wasn't sure what happened during the previous meeting because the minutes didn't provide enough detail and meetings aren't recorded.
- Road Map:
  - Change "many" to "a few" or "several" expressed concern. I only recall 3-4 who spoke up, but I could be wrong.
  - Add that, in addition to more meetings, some members also supported extending the end date for this workgroup.
  - Add that when workgroup members requested "ample" time to review documents, that included as much as two weeks.
  - Add that I suggested placing policies on the web so we could review them at our leisure and to provide transparency to the public. In response, the Hannah (and Mayor?) said they're having ongoing discussions about this.
  - Move reference to the field trip. I believe it came up during the presentation (because that's when I remember feeling excitement!).
- What-Comm presentation: it is important to document information and discussions not covered by the slides, including:
  - Data generation is almost always initiated by dispatchers.
  - It's unique to What-Comm or Whatcom County that welfare checks are so high.

- I asked if they have plans to slim down the 300 call types. Justin said they've talked about it. I suggested this could be a recommendation we make.
- So far in 2025, they have seen an increase in Port of Entry situations.
- The What-Comm entity is overseen by an Administrative Board. Membership is outlined in the interlocal agreement. I asked if it doesn't include any civilians and Justin replied that it doesn't. Across the state, about 50% of boards do include civilians. I asked who we contact to advocate for changes in membership. Justin mentioned this could be a suggested change we make to the interlocal agreement.

- Minutes:
  - I don't recall "expectations" being discussed at the beginning of the meeting, nor can I recall that topic. Delete or provide more details.
  - Explain more accurately how voting took place, including who made the motion and seconded it. Also, I originally opposed, but was then told I had to abstain since I wasn't present at the previous meeting, so it'd be good to document that properly.
  - Explain that I asked how we can provide feedback for improving meeting minutes and Deborah suggested we email her.

Please give us at least one week prior to the next meeting to review any incorporated changes.

I request that this email be shared with all members.

Thanks!  
Krystal