



**City of Bellingham**  
**Immigration Advisory Board Meeting Minutes**  
October 18, 2022, 6:30 PM

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**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 PM

**Board Members**

*Present:*

Tara Villalba

Liz Darrow

Homero Israel Jose Garrido

Australia Tobon

Ada Rumford

*Absent:*

Monika Cassidy

Holly Pai

Lelo Juarez

*Russian Interpretation: Alfia Logunova*

*Spanish Interpretation: Martha Sabalsa*

*Punjabi Interpretation: S. Mahood*

*City Council Legislative Staff: Nalini Margaitis*

*City Council Liaison: Kristina Michele Martens*

*Deputy City Administrator: Brian Heinrich*

**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.**

**To submit an application to serve on a City Board or Commission, please visit the following webpage: <https://cob.org/gov/public/bc/Boards-and-Commissions-Application-Process>**

**Welcome [5:05]**

- Nalini Margaitis welcomed the group.
- Nalini Margaitis and tri-facilitators facilitated this meeting.
- Minutes for the September 20, 2022 meeting were approved as written at 8:52PM [see 24:42 in video for record]

**Announcements and follow up on public comment from September meeting [6:25]**

- Homero Jose reported out on a community report

- Liz Darrow shared that the Board received emails from the public in support of the IRC as well as dangerous air quality in Whatcom County and Juarez asked that Darrow share that farmworkers were still working today despite the air quality conditions

**Public Comment and Community Reports [10:25]**

- No members of the public provided comment at this time

**Subcommittee Report: Process Subcommittee [11:49]**

- Tobon stated the committee is waiting on several Board member appointments and also shared that she and Garrido attended a Latinx Heritage event where they promoted the IAB and the IRC

**New item: Discussion of in-person meetings -** Because the meeting was ahead of schedule, the Board had a discussion about the location of in-person meetings beginning November 2022 [16:19]

- Darrow moved that the November meeting be in the Council Chambers, Garrido seconded – city Staff will confirm the possibility of this location
- Council liaison suggested the library room as the best spot if the Board keeps growing
- The library will be designated as the back-up location

**Subcommittee Report: IRC Subcommittee [25:17]**

- Garrido reported that the subcommittee met with Council Liaison Martens – Garrido reported that the meeting was productive
- Martens shared that she was on the founding team for the Whatcom Racial Equity Commissions (passed by County Council last Tuesday and started in August 2020), funding came from Chuckanut Health Foundation and interlocal agreement (County and City each provided \$45,000). Martens shared that the strategy was to tell the City and the County what they wanted instead of waiting for them to gather information
- Martens advised the IAB to pull exactly what they want, figure out what that number that is in order to accomplish everything in the first year that the center is established and add 10-15% on top of that and turn that over to Council to put a placeholder line item in the budget
- Rumford asked if there is a template or a form that the IAB should use to compile the information – Martens will send the Board the artifacts from the Racial Equity Commission
- Martens urged the Board (if possible) to propose a budget and then later worry about the ordinance stating that right now is a critical time to request the budget – Martens reassured the Board that the public will be there
- Darrow suggested that the IRC subcommittee get on a Council agenda to represent the presentation that they gave in May
- Tobon shared that the subcommittee is leaning heavily on the guidance of the Seattle Office of Immigrant and Refugee Affairs – they have provided the subcommittee with feedback, guidance, and budget proposals

**Subcommittee Report: Federal Contact Data Subcommittee [48:08]**

- The Board discussed items of concern on the federal contact data sheet citing September 10, September 21 (ICE, translation request), September 26 and Oct 6 as examples
- Tobon suggested the Board create a federal contact data cheat sheet to put on the IAB website

**Public Comment II [52:10 – 1:07:35]**

- Several members of the public provided comment and Board members responded

**Presentation: Opportunities for the Immigrant Community (Katie Ruddy, Whatcom Community College)**

- Presentation postponed – speaker unavailable

**Presentation: (Tara Villalba, IAB Member) [1:09:12-1:44:38]**

- Villalba provided the Board with a presentation titled, “Supporting Community Leaders from the Ground Up”

**Presentation Brian Heinrich, Deputy City Administrator [1:44:44]**

- Heinrich acknowledged that Mark Gardner, Council Staff, prepared the research on the models (Denver, Seattle)
- Heinrich pointed out three edits in the memorandum that was distributed: 1) on page 2 – sentence related to the reason that was raised from a federal law enforcement perspective was because of potential impact and 2) the chapter on the BMC section F B there was a spelling error and 3) changed “user information” to “personal information”
- Heinrich stated that from a process perspective, the administration is providing Council with the information requested on 5/9/2022 on operational models
- The Board urged Heinrich not to present the memo as is to Council

**Old/New Business**

- Australia Tobon moved to have the December 20 meeting on December 13, 2022  
MOTION CARRIED 5-0-3

**The meeting adjourned at 8:41 PM**

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**Recordings of this meeting with additional details of discussion is posted at: <https://cob.org/gov/public/bc/immigration-advisory-board-materials>**