



*City of Tualatin*

**TUALATIN NATIVE LAND AND PEOPLE ACKNOWLEDGEMENT  
COMMITTEE**

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2021  
5:30-6:30 P.M.**

**VIA ZOOM TELECONFERENCE**

**<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7388353269?pwd=NUUvZzdEaXQ2Mm1FUGsyOERFTkJKdz09>**

**MEETING ID: 738 835 3269  
PASSWORD: 684594**

---

**Call to Order**

**Approval of Minutes**

1. Tualatin Native Land And People Acknowledgement Committee Minutes of July 21, 2021
2. Tualatin Native Land And People Acknowledgement Committee Minutes of August 16, 2021
3. Tualatin Native Land And People Acknowledgement Committee Minutes of August 24, 2021
4. Tualatin Native Land And People Acknowledgement Committee Minutes of September 1, 2021

**Acknowledgment of Native Land People Discussion**

**Adjournment**

---

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, this meeting location is accessible to persons with disabilities. To request accommodations, please contact the City Manager's Office at 503.691.3011 36 hours in advance of the meeting.



## MINUTES OF THE TUALATIN NATIVE LAND AND PEOPLE ACKNOWLEDGEMENT COMMITTEE OF JULY 21, 2021

Present: City Councilor Valerie Pratt, Tualatin Parks and Recreation Committee Member Emma Gray, Deputy City Manager Megan George, Tualatin Arts Advisory Committee Member Mason Hall, Tualatin Parks Advisory Committee Chair Beth Dittman, Youth Advisory Committee Member Parker Johnson, Tualatin Library Committee Member Nicholas Schiller, Confederate Tribes of the Grand Ronde Member Stephanie Fogel

Absent: Tualatin Library Advisory Committee Student Member Kaia Gill

---

### Call to Order

Committee Chair Beth Dittman called the meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m.

### Community Before Task - Who Are We?

- What is your name?  
Nicholas, Parker, Emma, Valerie, Megan, Mason, Stephanie, Beth (in absentia - Kaia)
- What group are you here representing?  
Library Advisory, Youth Advisory, Parks Advisory, City Council, City of Tualatin, Arts Advisory, Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde (unofficially), Chair
- What is one of your favorite things about Tualatin?  
Parks and outdoor spaces, river, community, proximity to large box stores (esp. Container Store)
- What is something that brought you to this group?
  - Share more about our real history with others
  - Social justice/Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion interest and concerns
  - Learn more and build relationships with native people and tribe(s)

### Who Aren't We - Stephanie Littlebird Fogel

- Important to include native voice ("*not for us without us*") as we create our acknowledgement but equally important not to ask native folk to carry an emotional burden or do work without compensation - this work is the work of the perceived majority to do
- Acknowledgement should be written and shared with awareness that native people are **contemporary**
- Learn about the people whose land you are on and recognize that they are still here
- Your job is to acknowledge that the land was taken and to recognize the people who continue to be impacted by this history

### What Were Your Take-Aways from the Pre-Reading?

- As you read about the kalapuya, what was something you learned that was new?
- As you learned more about land acknowledgements, what stood out as an important take-away?

- What is something important from the work you've already done for this group that you would like others to know?
  - The Kalapuya are now a part of the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde
  - "Lifeway" as a term
  - The role that malaria played in the eradication of the Kalapuyans - had been taught or assume it was smallpox
  - Language is now extinct - gives pause for the need to vaccinate language keepers in other tribes and native groups
  - There are more tribes in the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde than known/expected
  - Treaty with the Atfalati was never ratified.

## Why Are We Here?

- Charter from the city
- What do you see as our purpose in this group?
  - Why are we here?
    - When you know better, you do better
    - Colonialism is an ongoing process
    - Truth and reconciliation is a lofty goal but a good first step is a truthful accounting of our history
    - Legal trail that happened in our system has a measurable economic impact to our (white people's) benefit
    - SB13 is a great start - even more about our truthful history should be taught and compulsory for students
    - We didn't know or weren't taught on purpose - it was by design that the native people were erased
      - The Carlisle Indian boarding school built up the idea that we should "kill the Indian, save the man"
    - We are stewards of this land and all of us are in this together
    - We have to do things on purpose - be intentional and deliberate
    - Important to be aware of the power dynamics that are still at play as it relates to our history
      - History is a story about who we are - we are trying to be more truthful about the "we" and the facts of the story
    - Acknowledgement is the start - our work also serves to inform others of the full truth
  - 1st Day Take Away
    - Acknowledgement is a good word - we need to recognize and acknowledge what has happened through lies, staking history books, etc.
    - We can heal and models change to behind the process of decentering whiteness as the authority by thinking critically about all institutions
    - Our work is a wake up call to create change
    - Means something to people in our community when they are acknowledged and their history respected
    - We can grow as a community if we know more
    - This work is intentional and personal - it centers around conversations and dialogue

- In order for this work to be more than performative, things have to get better for the people whose land this was - there needs to be a material benefit to them
- This work is about acknowledgment, respect, and understanding
- This work is the start, the catalyst for more actions
  - For example, our street names and our city logo (created by a non-native person to imitate native art)
- What should we do together?
  - At the end of our time together, it will be a success if...
  - I know we will have done our jobs when...
  - Our work is important because...
  - An impact I hope that our work will have is...
    - An impact I hope that our work will have is - Tualatin residents' actions are improved by thoughtful engagement with the land's history.
    - At the end of our time together, it will be a success if every official city meeting and event includes a land acknowledgement that has been developed with both community and native voices.
    - It will be a success if we were able to inform people about the history of this land and how it affects the people living here today as well as making this community more welcoming to the native people that live here.
    - I know we will have done our jobs when we no longer think of our jobs as being "done". (shared twice)
    - Our work is important because we need to help expose the truth about the history of this land and work toward a future that acknowledges all voices equally.
    - Our work will be a success if we share our acknowledgement and the purpose and guide for use statements associated with it in a public forum (e.g., the website) for easy access and education
    - Our honest attempt to reform and share cultural authority will lead to our ability to have a richer conversation and relationship in the future

## Assignment

Find 2-5 acknowledgement statements as examples

- Can be examples of things you want to emulate, borrow, or that you liked/appreciated.
- Can also be examples of things you want to avoid, change, or you didn't like or didn't sit well with you.

## Adjournment

Committee Chair Beth Dittman adjourned the meeting at 6:30 p.m.

---

/ Beth Dittman, Committee Chair



## MINUTES OF THE TUALATIN NATIVE LAND AND PEOPLE ACKNOWLEDGEMENT COMMITTEE OF AUGUST 24, 2021

Present: City Councilor Valerie Pratt, Tualatin Parks and Recreation Committee Member Emma Gray, Deputy City Manager Megan George, Tualatin Arts Advisory Committee Member Mason Hall, Tualatin Parks Advisory Committee Chair Beth Dittman, Youth Advisory Committee Member Parker Johnson, Tualatin Library Committee Member Nicholas Schiller

Absent: Tualatin Library Advisory Committee Student Member Kaia Gill

---

### Call to Order

Committee Chair Beth Dittman called the meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m.

### Community Before Task - Who Are We?

- What is your name?
- What is something that summer in Tualatin means to you?
- What is something for which you are grateful today?

### Debrief Homework

- What feedback did your community provide?
  - Positive: great idea, supportive, on board, wonderful
  - Apathetic: don't see it as a priority
  - Emotional: elicits empathy, sadness, and anger about what happened to the native people
  - Don't sugar coat the truth
  - Be honest (shared twice) about colonialism and its impact
  - Don't just do lip service - include actions and/or reparations (shared twice) including the return of the land to native people
  - Is "Tualatin" the appropriate name for our city?
  - Emotional and angry about what happened to native people
  - This will help some community members identify with their own heritage as well as help build social and cultural awareness about the current contributions that our diverse community makes to our collective culture
  - Want more time put into recognizing the history of the land and the people that lived here
  - Want this to happen in schools, too
  - Wish we were talking about this more/keeping it in front of mind
  - Be thoughtful not to exclude other marginalized groups
  - Be thoughtful about ways to not to let the statement become rote - include a personalization option for the presenter (e.g., poem, story of connection to the land, facts, etc.)
  - Keep it short
  - Make it more than a statement but also a commitment to do better

- Develop literature about the process we used to create the statement, guidance for how and when it will be used, as well as some of the history of the native people
- Keeping the work authentic is important - not sure how to create this
- Friends of Trees already does this at their Tualatin events - it is lovely
- Authenticity is important
- Rote is sometimes important, too. Think of the Pledge of Allegiance
- For someone who isn't actively learning, thinking, or talking about this much of the specifics will be lost on them
- Some events at which this could be shared include:
  - Concerts on the commons
  - Movies on the commons
  - Regatta
  - Viva
  - Holiday Lights
  - City council meetings
  - City committee meetings
  - Veterans breakfast
- Review of essential elements for statement identified at last meeting
  - Mention of different tribes (correct or accurate research)
  - No mincing of words or sugar coating - named truths/impacts
  - Used past, present, future tenses (shared twice)
  - Mention of the importance of native people to our culture
  - Kept it positive (and honest)
  - Accompanied by a list of what is actively being done to have a material benefit to native people
  - Reference to the land use/sustainability/stewardship of land - learning to honor the land from the people who have occupied it since time immemorial
  - Identification of being in community on the land
  - Identification of how the tribes and bands are now represented by the confederated tribes
  - Mention of our interpretation (filter/lens) of the legacy
  - Perspective of how large a percentage of all native populations are from our area
  - Pronunciation guides and other educational/contextual resources
  - This statement has been reviewed and approved by the native people affiliated with that land
  - Stating that "we need to grow and learn"
  - Protocols that include paying native folk for their time to be a part of an acknowledgment at events - an example of material benefit
  - A call to action to give back what they can to the land and people where possible.
  - Acknowledgement of the acts of seizure and treaties that were and were not ratified.
  - Not overstating or promising reparations where they may not be possible (doing research to confirm that land disputes are not still ongoing)
  - Thank you to the original caretakers of this land
  - I see you and I honor you
  - Including some sort of context about how the statement was created

## Review of Purpose Statement

- **How** do you think we can best accomplish this?
  - Work group members act as stewards and take this conversation to the respective places where we are involved in the city (e.g., committees) (shared twice)

- Be connected to the efficacy of the statement - Anticipate wordsmithing/adaptations by City Council of our final product and set our “limits” of where we feel comfortable making changes and what things we want to be sure are included
- Integrate this statement into the city
  - Library programs
  - Facebook and other social media channels - fact sharing
  - Education to community about our process
  - Art competition or installments
  - Collaborate with historical society
- Our purpose statement includes a lot of the “how”
- Be resilient and remain passionate and authentic about our work: own that our work won’t be “done” and as such be open to change and challenge and welcome the dialogue about this topic rather than
- Does a statement cover what we want to do?
  - No, but it is a good start
- Does it need to be something else?
  - See above
- Does it need to be something different entirely?
  - No, see above
- Who else needs to be included in our process?
  - Need to attend a City Council work session to present our work and invite next steps
  - Need to reach out to Cultural Liaison at Grand Ronde to get next step of approval

## Statement Drafting

- Individually - using some of the *structured prompts*, create your best 1st draft of the statement
  - Naming of tribes and bands: *We are gathered on the unceded lands of the Kalapuya-Atfalati who today are represented by the Confederated Tribes of the Grande Ronde.*
    - Mason is charged with confirming the list of tribes and bands as well as identifying the order in which they should be listed.
  - Identifying truths and impacts: *We acknowledge the painful history and ongoing impact of... and recognize that the land we are gathered on today was obtained...*
  - Using Past, Present, and Future to identify native people:
    - *We respectfully acknowledge and honor past, present, and future Indigenous members of our community.*
    - *We pay respect to the elders who have stewarded the land throughout the generations and continue to do so.*
    - *The Indigenous people are still here and are still connected to this land.*
  - Land use/stewardship/sustainability: *We offer gratitude for the land itself, for those who have stewarded it for generations.*
  - Community:
  - Gratitude: *We are grateful for...*
  - Welcoming: *We value and welcome...*
  - Call to action:
    - *We urge...*
    - *We encourage...*
    - *This acknowledgment only becomes meaningful when combined with accountable relationships and informed actions*
  - Educational materials, context, how-to guides

## **Assignment**

Write/Revise a 1st Draft Statement

- Each committee member is to use the prompts outlined above (as well as any of the text from other statements you have found or that were identified by our group) to create your first draft statement.
- Bring your statements to our next meeting so we can share and build on each other's work.

## **Adjournment**

Committee Chair Beth Dittman adjourned the meeting at 6:30 p.m.

\_\_\_\_\_ / Beth Dittman, Committee Chair





## MINUTES OF THE TUALATIN NATIVE LAND AND PEOPLE ACKNOWLEDGMENT COMMITTEE OF SEPTEMBER 1, 2021

Present: City Councilor Valerie Pratt, Tualatin Parks and Recreation Committee Member Emma Gray, Deputy City Manager Megan George, Tualatin Arts Advisory Committee Member Mason Hall, Tualatin Parks Advisory Committee Chair Beth Dittman.

Absent: Tualatin Library Advisory Committee Student Member Kaia Gill, Youth Advisory Committee Member Parker Johnson, Tualatin Library Committee Member Nicholas Schiller

---

### Call to Order

Committee Chair Beth Dittman called the meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

### Community Before Task

- What is one of your favorite Tualatin festivals or traditions?
- What is something that is on your mind that you can name and then put aside before our work together today?

### Statement Drafting

- Share your statement
- As you listen to others, reflect back to the person sharing what you heard and took away from the statement identifying words, phrases, or aspects that resonate with you.

### Member Hall

*We would like to begin by **welcoming** everyone here today with **open hearts and minds**, and by acknowledging that we are here on the **unceded territory of the original peoples of this land—the Kalapuyan and Tualatin/ Atfalati, now represented by the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde**. This area was originally populated by many of these indigenous people who **lived and thrived in a profoundly complex and interdependent relationship with the land and other beings**—long before European colonial settlement. Though their **land was taken from them by force and deception, and their populations decimated by disease and violence**, these First Peoples are **still here**, growing in number, **and are still connected to this land**. We honor their continued contributions and celebrate the diversity they bring which strengthens the whole of our community. The intention of this acknowledgement statement is our way of showing respect by **taking a step toward correcting the stories and practices that have tried to erase indigenous people’s history and culture, and by honoring the truth and moving toward greater understanding and reconciliation**. We wish to extend our gratitude to the indigenous people who were stewards of this land since time immemorial--and continue to be--and to offer our respect to their elders, past, present, and future.*

### Councilor Pratt

*We are gathered on the lands and **waters** inhabited by indigenous tribes that include Atfalati/Kalapuya/Tualatin? and who are currently represented by the Grand Rhonde Indians. We acknowledge the painful history and ongoing impact of the **taking of this land***

***without treaties [list specific ones if possible]. We respectfully acknowledge and honor the past, present and future indigenous members of our community and are grateful for their stewardship of this land. We strive to take actions to inform our community about the painful history of our indigenous community and to take accountable actions to help heal the past and develop collaborative relationships to further our combined responsibility to be good stewards of this land where we have the honor to live.***

Member Gray

*As we gather in community, and to serve all people of Tualatin, we acknowledge our presence on the **unceded** lands of the Kalapuya and Atfalati people who have lived and nurtured these lands for thousands of years and who today are represented by the Confederated Tribes of the Grande Ronde.*

*We acknowledge the **painful history and present-day impact** of colonialism, forced displacement, and violence perpetrated by white colonizers and we understand that silence perpetuates our complicity in these systems of oppression.*

*We offer gratitude and respect to the rightful stewards of this land **who continue today to model responsible land use, sustainable practice and care for the land and its people.** We thank our indigenous family for hosting us and for sharing the gifts of their values and traditions that impact every aspect of the Pacific Northwest.*

*As a public body entrusted by the people to serve, we pledge to stay mindful of our history and allow it to positively inform our work with humility, honesty, and accountability.*

Member Johnson

*We **pause** today to acknowledge that the city of Tualatin occupies the **unceded** land of the Kalapuya-Atfalati who today are represented by the Confederated Tribes of the Grande Ronde. **We acknowledge the painful history and ongoing impact of settler colonialism and recognize that the land we are gathered on today was obtained by unjust and immoral means.** And with this knowledge we wish to work to learn from the native peoples of this land how to be better stewards of the land as well.*

Manager George

*We are gathered on the land of the Kalapuya, who today are represented by the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde.*

***We offer gratitude for the land itself, for those who have stewarded it for generations, and for the opportunity to live, learn, work, and play on this land today.***

*We acknowledge the painful history and ongoing impact of colonization on our Indigenous community members and the **role of government in that.***

*We respectfully acknowledge and honor past, present, and future Indigenous members of the Tualatin community beginning with acts of healing and honest storytelling about **this place.***

Chair Dittman

*We are gathered on the unceded **homelands** of the Tualatin (Atfalati) Kalapuya who today are represented by the Confederated Tribes of the Grande Ronde.*

*We pay respect to the elders who stewarded this land throughout the generations before us. We offer our thanks to them for their example of how to live in harmony with the land.*

*We honor present and future Indigenous/Native American members of our community who are still here and connected to this land.*

*We acknowledge the painful history of colonialism and recognize the **generational impacts of genocide, relocation, and assimilation on Indigenous/Native American families today.***

*We offer gratitude for the land itself, for the ways in which it has and will continue to provide for us and give us a space to live, work, recreate, learn, grow food, access water, and come together in community.*

*We value and welcome all members of our community. We recognize that our **shared history includes stories of sacrifice from a diverse web of people all of whom have contributed to our ability to be where we are today.***

***We recognize that this statement is a first step in our work to reconcile and honor our truthful history.** We encourage everyone present today to learn more at:\_\_\_\_\_.*

### **Next Meeting**

- Thursday, 9/16 at 5:30pm - Polish draft to bring out to community
- October 5 at 5:30pm -Final meeting to report back feedback from respective committees
- October 25 at 5pm - Presentation to City Council at Work Session (Plan to attend to answer questions and show support for our process and product)

### **Assignment**

- Edit and Comment Draft Aggregated Statement

#### **Aggregated Statement:**

As we **gather** in community, to serve all people of Tualatin, we **welcome** everyone here today with open hearts and minds. Let us **pause** to **acknowledge** our presence on the unceded homelands and waters of the Tualatin-Atfalati (“at-fall-uh-tee”) Kalapuya people who are, today, represented by the Confederated Tribes of the Grande Ronde.

The land we are gathered on was obtained via unjust means including the 1850 Oregon Land Donation Claim Act, unratified treaties of 1851 and 1854, and the Dawes Act in 1887. We **witness** the painful history and generational impacts of colonialism, forced displacement, assimilation, disease, and violence on Native American families. We **understand** that silence perpetuates our complicity in these systems of oppression.

We offer **respect** to the original stewards of this land who model responsible land use, sustainable practice, and interdependent relationships with the land and other beings. We

**thank** our indigenous family for hosting us and offer **gratitude** for the land itself, for the opportunity to live, learn, work, and play here.

Our shared history includes stories of sacrifice from a diverse web of people all of whom have contributed to our ability to be where we are today. We **honor** past, present, and future Indigenous members of the Tualatin community, **recognizing** that these First Peoples are still here and connected to this land.

We **know** that this statement is a first step in our work toward greater understanding through honest storytelling. We **pledge** to stay mindful of our history and take accountable actions to reconcile our past and move forward together.

## **Adjournment**

Committee Chair Beth Dittman adjourned the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

\_\_\_\_\_ / Beth Dittman, Committee Chair