



IDEA ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

August 18, 2025

Present: Sunni Case Armstrong, Kelsea Ashenbrenner, Chris Paul, Gerry Preston, Cosi Slider, Erinn Stimson, Councilor Christen Sacco

Absent: Kolini Fusitu'a, Evelin Hooper, Winnie Lo, Rebekah Morgan, BJ Park

Public: Waamichu Adamo

Staff: Jerianne Thompson, Library Director / Equity & Inclusion Officer
Betsy Rodriguez Ruef, Community Engagement Coordinator
Jill Coleman, City Manager's Office Intern

A. CALL TO ORDER

Chris Paul called the meeting to order at 6:10 PM.

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chris Paul called for any corrections to the July minutes. Sunni Armstrong moved to accept the July 2025 meeting minutes; Cosi Slider seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

C. COMMUNICATIONS

1. Co-Chairs: Chris Paul said the Pride Concert had a great turnout, and he thanked Sunni Armstrong for her organizing efforts.

2. Council Liaison: Councilor Christen Sacco shared information about the Safe Parking Program presentation recently delivered to Tualatin City Council.

3. Staff: Jerianne Thompson shared information about the recent Executive Order by the Portland Mayor requiring the City of Portland to adjust any programs or policies at risk of violating federal anti-discrimination laws. She reminded committee members whose terms are expiring in November to reapply if interested in serving another term on the committee.

Betsy Rodriguez Ruef said she is preparing for back to school outreach and for the Pumpkin Regatta in October.

4. Public: Waamichu Odomo said she is concerned about education and literacy for children.

D. OLD BUSINESS

1. Summer Outreach Strategy: Chris Paul shared his perspectives about outreach at the Tualatin Pride Concert and led committee members in discussion. Feedback shared included that the start time of 5pm may have been problematic, given Friday afternoon traffic; that the committee should have some kind of giveaway or activity at future engagement events; and that the committee would like a way for community members to be able to share feedback, such as a committee email address or a webform.

E. NEW BUSINESS

1. Urban Renewal: Core Opportunity Reinvestment Area: Tabled until September.

2. Acknowledgement of Native Land and People: Chris Paul briefly reviewed the history of activities related to creating an Acknowledgement of Native Land and People for Tualatin. Paul asked what additional information committee members needed to make an informed recommendation on the topic. Responses included:

- Wanting to know how the members of the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde feel about land acknowledgements and if it is an action they would like the City of Tualatin to take.
- What percentage of the population in Tualatin and in Washington County are indigenous? What sources of demographic data exist other than the U.S. Census?
- What are the perspectives of people who do not support adopting a land acknowledgement? How can the City avoid making such a statement performative?
- What are other nearby cities or organizations doing related to land acknowledgements?

The committee also discussed a proposal prepared by Rebekah Morgan for a project that the City could take in connection with an acknowledgment, focused on the ecology, restoration, and sustainability of the Tualatin River habitat. There was consensus to support the project idea. Committee members questions included:

- What actions could we recommend the City share that community members could directly take to participate?
- What are the existing opportunities related to the Tualatin River? What are organizations like the Tualatin Riverkeepers currently doing? What are those organizations' relationships with regional tribes?
- Is there a potential connection between this proposed project and the downtown urban renewal district, which includes the new riverfront parkland?

F. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

1. Urban Renewal: Core Opportunity Reinvestment Area

2. Parks & Recreation: Gathering Places

G. COMMUNICATIONS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Committee members were provided copies of a letter written by Rebekah Morgan to the Tualatin City Council and Washington County staff about the upcoming public safety levy and a brief report from Morgan with informational links related to the Tualatin River, existing partnerships, policy context, emergency water preparedness, and other resources.

H. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 7:40 PM.

Minutes prepared by Jerianne Thompson & Betsy Ruef, staff