



IDEA ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

May 18, 2026

Present: Kelsea Ashenbrenner, Emily Baker, Chris Paul, Sunni Case Armstrong, Maia Schroeder, Nina Ichikawa, Erinn Stimson, Samantha Peterson, and City Councilor Christen Sacco

Absent: Gerry Preston, Kolini Fusitu'a, and Laura Engberson

Public: None

Staff: Megan George, Deputy City Manager
Betsy Rodriguez Ruef, Community Engagement Coordinator

A. CALL TO ORDER

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

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Co-Chair Chris called for any corrections to the March 16, 2026, April 20, 2026, and April 27, 2026, meeting minutes.

Erinn Stimson moved to approve the March 16, 2026, meeting minutes. Sunni Case Armstrong seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Erinn Stimson moved to approve the April 20, 2026, meeting minutes. Maia Schroeder seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Kelsea Ashenbrenner moved to approve the April 27, 2026, meeting minutes. Samantha Peterson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

C. COMMUNICATIONS

1. Co-Chairs: Co-Chair Sunni Case Armstrong reminded committee members that over the last few months, committee members have signed up to attend meetings and events organized by other advisory groups and committees in Tualatin. She asked if anyone had attended a meeting since the committee's last meeting on April 20, 2026. None had.

Secretary Kelsea Ashenbrenner noted that several committees will be taking a summer break and shared that additional information is still being gathered for groups such as the Tualatin Historical Society and the VFW.

2. Council Liaison: Councilor Christen Sacco shared updates from recent City Council meetings, including discussions related to food cart regulations, proclamations recognizing Mental Health Awareness Month and Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month, information regarding the Washington County Sheriff's Mental Health Response Team, Outside Agency Grant recipients, an update on eviction prevention efforts, and announced that the State of the City would be held the following evening, May 19, beginning at 5:30pm at the Grand Hotel - Bridgeport.

3. Staff: Community Engagement Coordinator Betsy Rodriguez Ruef and Deputy City Manager Megan George provided the following announcements:

- Big Truck Day will take place on May 22, 2026, from 10 AM to 12 PM at Tualatin Community Park.
- Summer Reading at the Library will kick off on May 31, 2026, from 2 PM to 4 PM with a carnival event at the Library. Free books will be provided to all children and teens who sign up for the program. Adults may participate as well.
- The Juanita Pohl Center programs continue to operate out of the Van Raden Community Center during construction. The Center is anticipated to reopen in mid-June.
- The Tualatin Police Department is participating in the "Click It or Ticket" safety belt enforcement campaign from May 18 through May 31, 2026. Staff encouraged community members to always wear their seat belts.
- The Budget Committee met on May 11, 2026, and is scheduled to meet again on May 20 and May 27 beginning at 5:30 PM.
- The Tualatin Chamber of Commerce is undergoing a leadership transition. Future committee visits to Chamber meetings should be coordinated through the new Interim Executive Director Ali Unverzagt.

4. Public: None.

D. OLD BUSINESS

1. Topic: Native Land and People Acknowledgement Statement – Co-Chair Chris indicated that the purpose of this item was to finalize the committee's recommendation to the City Council on whether to adopt a Native Land and People Acknowledgement Statement. Secretary Kelsea presented a draft recommendation based on the committee's prior feedback and conversations.

The Committee discussed and made several changes to the recommendation. Members added language encouraging educational opportunities in future parks and public spaces, corrected minor wording changes, removed the full text of the Washington County land acknowledgment while retaining a general reference to it, and added a concluding statement affirming that the IDEA Committee is committed to advising the City Council on planning events, educational opportunities, and future actions related to Indigenous history and relationships.

The committee's consensus was to make the following recommendation to the City Council. Councilor Sacco agreed to ask the City Council to agendaize this item for the June 22, 2026 City Council meeting.

The IDEA Committee is recommending that the City of Tualatin not adopt a written Native Land Acknowledgement, but instead commit to stewarding a relationship with The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, as well as find ways to continue to educate the people of Tualatin on the living history of Tualatin's native peoples. A few ways we suggest are:

- *Exhibits displaying Indigenous Artist's work*
- *Interactive discussions with Indigenous historians and scholars*
- *Display information about Tualatin's Indigenous land and people sat the new Riverfront Park*
- *Continue to prioritize equity, inclusion, and access for all Indigenous peoples living in Tualatin today*

2. Spring/Summer Tabling

Co-Chair Sunni led a discussion regarding the IDEA Committee's participation in upcoming community engagement events, including:

- Pride Stride on May 30, 2026, at the Tualatin Lake of the Commons.
- Martinazzi Woods CIO/Midwest CIO Neighborhood Fair on June 13, 2026, at Lafky Park.
- Viva Tualatin on July 11, 2026, at Tualatin Community Park.

Committee members confirmed interest in participating in all three events and discussed volunteer availability and engagement opportunities. Deputy City Manager Megan shared updates on the available swag items and noted that IDEA Committee stickers had been ordered and were expected to arrive at City Offices on May 26, 2026. Staff also shared several t-shirt design options created by the City's contract graphic designer and the committee's consensus was to move forward with the green design.

E. NEW BUSINESS

1. Pride Month Proclamation

Secretary Kelsea read the Pride Month Proclamation, the committee recommended several grammatical changes, adding in reference to Tualatin Valley Pride's May 30 event, and a statement recognizing and highlighting BIPOC LGBTQ+ individuals and designated Maia Schroeder to draft the language. Maia Schroeder, Emily Baker, and Erinn Stimson volunteered to attend and receive the ceremonial proclamation on May 26.

2. Juneteenth Proclamation

Co-Chair Sunni read the Juneteenth Proclamation and the committee agreed to move forward with the text as written without additional changes. Maia Schroeder, Emily Baker, and Erinn Stimson volunteered to attend and receive the ceremonial proclamation on May 26.

3. Committee Bylaws – Geroge, Deputy City Manager Megan George described the purpose and function of committee bylaws and facilitated a brainstorming discussion regarding potential topics for inclusion in the committee’s bylaws. The committee discussed the need for clear procedures related to committee operations, including member participation expectations, attendance and absences, resignation processes, leadership roles, and meeting procedures. Staff agreed to prepare an initial draft of the bylaws and provide it to Secretary Kelsea for review prior to bringing the draft back to the full committee for review and discussion.

E. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

1. Climate Action Plan Update -June

The committee discussed other possible future agenda items including an update on the Downtown Revitalization project, a debrief of the Pride Stride event, discussion of the committee’s work plan, and further discussion on the bylaws.

F. COMMUNICATIONS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Committee member Erinn Stimson shared information regarding the upcoming Dystonia Walk at the Oregon Zoo on July 18, benefiting the Dystonia Medical Research Foundation. Erinn noted that informational materials were available at the back table and invited committee members to participate in the event. Co-Chair Chris shared that he would be participating in the walk for the second consecutive year and described it as a fun and accessible community event.

G. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:43 PM.

Minutes prepared by Betsy Ruef staff