



IDEA ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

March 16, 2026

Present: Erinn Stimson, Kelsea Ashenbrenner, Sunni Case Armstrong, Chris Paul, Nina Ichikawa Samantha Peterson Maia Schroeder (virtual), and City Councilor Cyndy Hillier

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

Public: Margaret Gunther (virtual)

Staff: Jerianne Thompson, Library Director / Equity & Inclusion Officer
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 Sunni Case Armstrong called for any corrections to the January 13, 2026, meeting minutes. Erinn Stimson moved to accept the minutes and Kelsea Ashenbrenner seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Co-Chair Armstrong reminded attendees that the February 17, 2026, meeting was cancelled.

C. **COMMUNICATIONS**

1. Co-Chairs: Co-Chair Armstrong announced that work will begin on draft formal bylaws for the IDEA Committee, as previously discussed with City Attorney Kevin McConnell. The bylaws are intended to define the roles, responsibilities, and activities of committee members and officers. Co-Chair Armstrong noted that leadership will collaborate with staff to develop a draft document for future Committee review. Co-Chair Armstrong also shared recognition of a Committee member's recent performance in a local play, noting it as a positive community highlight.

2. Council Liaison: Councilor Hillier informed committee members that she was attending the meeting in Councilor Christen Sacco's absence. She noted that various projects are underway throughout the community. She encouraged committee members to participate in their local Community Involvement Organizations (CIOs), as annual meeting season is beginning. She emphasized the importance of community engagement and staying connected with local initiatives.

She also provided updates on grant funding distributed by the city, noting that approximately \$50,000 is awarded annually to nonprofit organizations supporting services such as housing assistance and food security. Councilor Hillier expressed appreciation for the positive impact these funds are having within the community.

Additionally, she highlighted the start of the city's budget season and described Tualatin's budget process as highly collaborative and transparent. She noted that the city consistently receives recognition for its financial management practices and emphasized the role of staff and community members in maintaining an open and inclusive budgeting process.

3. Staff: Community Engagement Coordinator Betsy Rodriguez Ruef provided several updates. Representatives from the Police Department visited a Spanish-speaking women's group that meets regularly at the Juanita Pohl Center. Updates were also shared about the Tigard-Tualatin School District Budget Workshop on March 18 and a Portland State University capstone research project seeking voluntary, anonymous input from Committee members.

Library Director/Equity and Inclusion Officer Jerianne Thompson shared that Tualatin Public Library Children's Librarian Sam Wikstrom was recently recognized by the Northwest Regional Education Service District for her work in leading inclusive story time programming. In partnership with an early childhood education specialist, the program provides an inclusive environment for children of all abilities and backgrounds.

Library Director Thompson also announced an upcoming City Council meeting that will include several proclamations, including Transgender Day of Visibility, National Library Week, and Month of the Military Child. Supporting materials and informational slides were prepared to provide context on gender identity policies and protections at both the national and state levels. She noted that Oregon provides strong protections for transgender and non-binary individuals and that additional educational materials would be shared with Council.

4. Public: None.

D. NEW BUSINESS

1. Tualatin Police Department: Chief Greg Pickering provided an overview of Police Department practices and responded to questions submitted in advance by the Committee. He explained that the department collects basic identifying information during interactions, such as name and date of birth, but does not routinely require individuals to disclose demographic information such as ethnicity unless it is voluntarily provided. He emphasized that the department focuses on behavior-based interactions rather than demographic profiling.

Chief Pickering described the department's policy framework, noting that it is guided by a comprehensive policy manual that is regularly updated to reflect current laws and best practices. He also explained that the department participates in an accreditation program through the Northwest Accreditation Alliance, which involves periodic external review of policies and procedures to ensure accountability and adherence to professional standards.

Chief Pickering indicated that additional topics, including traffic stop data and departmental practices, could be discussed later.

2. Cultivating Community: Co-Chair Armstrong led a discussion on cultivating community in alignment with the IDEA Committee's vision, including whether subcommittees could be created for outreach events. The committee requested clarification from staff about whether they would be allowed to create subcommittees and agreed to table the discussion until a later date.

3. Autism Awareness Month Proclamation: The proclamation was approved by consensus.

4. Chachalu Field Trip: This item was tabled.

E. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

1. Community Groups Update
2. Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month Proclamation
3. IDEA Committee Bylaws
4. Spring/Summer Outreach Opportunities

F. COMMUNICATIONS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Samantha shared that the Arbor Day Volunteer Event on Friday, April 24, is an opportunity for community members to get involved.

G. ADJOURNMENT

Co-Chair Paul adjourned the meeting at 7:58 PM.

Minutes prepared by Betsy Ruef, staff.