

TO: City Council
FROM: Kelly Adams, Assistant City Administrator
DATE: April 21, 2026
SUBJECT: Advisory Board Appointment of Vanessa Arita Reyes, Tina Crary, Sarah Ellison, Ellen Matheny, Michael Snow, Vonny Turner, and Lisa Gorski to the Equity Commission

1) Recommended Action:

Approve Mayor Dahlhoff's appointment of Vanessa Arita Reyes, Tina Crary, Sarah Ellison, Ellen Matheny, Michael Snow, Vonny Turner, and Lisa Gorski to the Equity Commission.

2) Background:

On October 21, 2025, the City Council adopted Ordinance No. O2025-017, *Establishment of the Tumwater Equity Commission*, which was subsequently codified. As provided in TMC 2.60, the Equity Commission serves as an advisory body to the City Council on matters related to equity, inclusion, and access to City programs, services, and decision-making processes. The appointments reflect the Council's intent to ensure that diverse perspectives and lived experiences are represented as the Commission begins its work in advancing inclusive and equitable outcomes for the Tumwater community.

Vanessa Arita Reyes, Tina Crary, Sarah Ellison, Ellen Matheny, Michael Snow, Vonny Turner, and Lisa Gorski applied and were interviewed by the Mayor, Mayor Pro-Tem, and staff. Upon confirmation, the appointments will become effective immediately. Consistent with TMC 2.60, initial terms will be staggered as follows: Vanessa Arita Reyes, Tina Crary, and Lisa Gorski will serve two-year terms ending April 21, 2028, and Sarah Ellison, Ellen Matheny, Michael Snow, and Vonny Turner will serve three-year terms ending April 21, 2029.

3) Policy Support:

2026-2032 Strategic Plan

Focus Area: Vibrant, Livable, and Inclusive Community

Action Item: Promote equity and inclusion within the Tumwater community. Work with the new Equity Commission to develop an initial work plan, including a strong community engagement process (Executive)

4) Alternatives:

- Approve the appointments
 - Do not approve the appointments
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5) Fiscal Notes:

There is no fiscal impact associated with this report.

6) Attachments:

- A. Application and supplemental applicant information.