

EQUITY SUBCOMMITTEE MINUTES
City of Spokane
Equity Subcommittee
City Hall Tribal Room
7/15/2026

Call to Order: 12:04pm

Attendance

Subcommittee Members Present:

Kiana McKenna, Naghmana Sherazi, Sebastian Ruiz, Pat Castaneda,

Staff Present:

Alex Gibilisco, Sebastian Pedinielli, CM Sarah Dixit

Others Present:

Jael Stebbins, Yiğit Kaçmaz, Jillian Hull

Approval of Minutes

- Voted to April, May, June approve minutes

Agenda Items

Briefing Items

1. Vote to Recommend Jordy Jones to Equity SC
 - Vote to approve passed unanimously
2. Vice Chair Conversation—Sebastian Ruiz
 - Sebastian R. put out an ask for someone to serve as a vice chair for the subcommittee. The vice chair sets the agenda with Alex and Sebastian R. and will take over as chair after Sebastian.
 - No one immediately volunteered, but Sebastian R. asked committee members to meditate on the decision and come forward before the next meeting if they are interested.
3. Language Access in Neighborhood Councils—Jael Stebbins
 - Jael identified an issue with representation at her neighborhood council, and when she tried to recruit a more diverse population to attend she ran into language barriers.
 - While she wants to make tangible actionable steps, her mission is based in the idea of creating a “belonging environment” especially for neighborhood councils.
 - Kiana brought up some of the challenges with Pacific Islander languages being indigenous and how normal translation services are not equipped to

handle them. She also emphasized the importance of trusted messagers to overcome these barriers

- Pat also emphasized the importance of trusted messagers
- Jillian mentioned that the Spokane Alliance worked on language access for prescriptions, and that they may have valuable information
- Alex covered some of the policies that council has passed, including the requirement that departments include a line item for language access. He suggested Jael speak with ONS about how that process has been going for them.
- CM Dixit brought up the history of council's ordinance and the struggles with implementation. She also brought up the benefits of pictures and illustrations as a means of translation.

4. Equitable Budgeting Workgroup Updates—Sebastian Ruiz

- The workgroup has presented their idea for an equitable budgeting ordinance to many city folks, including council and the Mayor.
- Alex said the ordinance is in the final stages and can be submitted to the finance committee at the end of the month.
- Alex also presented to the Human Rights Commission, who was very receptive and wanted to sign on a letter of support.
- Members will read the proposed ordinance and give feedback, ideally by next Wednesday
- Kiana brought up some issues with WatersMeet funding guidelines, and the barriers to applying as a collective when the organization call for groups to apply.

Standing Updates

- Council Liaison Updates

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at

Next Equity Subcommittee Meeting, August 19, at 12:00pm, City Hall, Tribal Room (1st floor)

Prepared by:

Sebastian Pedinielli, Legislative Assistant to CM Dixit

Approved by:

Sebastian Ruiz

Equity Subcommittee Cha