

New Portlanders Policy Commission Meeting Summary

Date: June 10, 2025

Time: 5:30 PM – 7:00 PM

Location: In-Person, Portland Building (Room 210)

Key Highlights:

- **Attendance:**
 - 7 commissioners present; quorum met.
 - City representatives: Wafa Almarktari (excused) and Ocean Jasso (present).
- **Welcome & Introductions:**
 - Commissioners shared summer plans as an icebreaker.
 - Meeting began with roll call and overview of the agenda.
- **Updates:**
 - **City Council Meetings:**
 - **June 4:** Included presentations on governance committee rules and board appointments.
 - **June 10:** Council adopted the **FY 2025–2026 City Budget** and approved a **Councilor Zimmerman amendment** to add a second full-time position (FTE) to the **Immigrant & Refugee Program**.
 - **Commission Member Update:**
 - Commissioner Massara Eiwaz stepped down from NPPC.
 - **City Staff Update:**
 - Wafa Almarktari returning July 7, 2025.
 - Ocean Jasso will conclude NPPC support after the July 8 meeting.
- **Action Items:**
 - Approval of **April and May meeting notes and the June agenda**.
- **Guest Speaker: Mayor Ted Wilson**
 - Mayor joined the NPPC for a 30-minute in-person discussion.
 - **Key points from the Mayor's remarks:**
 - Reaffirmed **Portland's commitment as a sanctuary city** and recognized ongoing challenges affecting immigrant communities nationwide.

- *Noted recent incidents involving federal interactions with local law enforcement and emphasized Portland’s sanctuary policies: portland.gov/civic/immigrants.*
 - **Commissioner comments and questions:**
 - **Kolini:** *Requested City leadership attend community events (e.g., Tongan and PI community gatherings) to build trust and share accurate information.*
 - **Stephanie:** *Emphasized the need to spread calm and confidence within immigrant and refugee communities.*
- **Debrief & Next Steps:**
 - *Commissioners reflected positively on the Mayor’s visit, calling it productive and encouraging.*
 - **Upcoming proclamations:**
 - *Tonga Day – August 16 (Kolini)*
 - *World Refugee Day – Late June (Sahar)*
 - *Members discussed ways to strengthen NPPC’s visibility and effectiveness in advising City leadership on immigrant and refugee issues.*
- **Subcommittee Updates:**
 - *Subcommittees include:*
 - **Advocacy and Policy**
 - **Community Engagement**
 - **Grant Selection**
 - *Members were reminded to include staff (Wafa/Ocean) in all subcommittee meetings for recordkeeping and public access.*
 - *The NPPC will begin meeting **every other month** once subcommittees convene.*
- **Next Meeting:**
 - **Tuesday, July 8, 2025 | 5:30 PM – 7:00 PM**
 - *Agenda will include review of **NPPC Rules of Engagement and Expectations (draft)**.*

Detailed agenda and full meeting notes are available upon request.