

City Flag Selection Committee

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, July 24, 2025

Time 9:00 a.m.

Location: Aspen Room, City Hall

The meeting began at 9 a.m.

Committee Members Present:

Naomi Alexrod, Russell Ford, Anne McEnerney Ogle, Rosalinda Mendoza, Lee Rafferty, Ty Stober, Hector Alejandro Varela-Betancourt

Committee Members Absent:

Zatera Griffin

Staff Present:

Laura Shepard, Tracie Ramirez

Welcome and introductions

Laura opened the meeting with some statistics about the 138 flag design submissions received:

- 107 were submitted by Vancouver residents
- 10 were submitted by residents of other Clark County cities (Brush Prairie, Battle Ground, Camas, Ridgefield)
- 3 were submitted from other Washington state cities (Raymond, Sammamish, Lacy)
- 6 were submitted from Oregon
- 11 from across the United States (New Hampshire, Oklahoma, Texas (3), Utah, California, New York, Michigan, Florida (2), Pennsylvania
- 2 submissions from Canada
- 2 submissions from Brazil
- 11 submitters were under the age of 18

Members

Rosalinda Mendoza

Chair

Name

Vice Chair/TBD

Mayor Anne McEnerney-Ogle

Councilor Ty Stober

Naomi Axlelrod

Russell Ford

Zatera Griffin

Lee Rafferty

Hector Alejandro Varela-

Betancourt

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Laura introduced Ted Kaye, Secretary, North American Vexillological Association (NAVA). Ted has written papers on flag scholarship, including “Good Flag, Bad Flag” and “Flags of the Native Peoples of the United States.” He has assisted several tribes in designing their flags and has supported cities all over the world in designing their flags. She added that NAVA has graciously agreed to assist in refining the designs chosen.

Overview of the Day

Ted Kaye provided the committee an overview of the five principles in good flag design: keep it simple, use meaningful symbolism, use two or three basic colors, no lettering or seals and be distinctive - [Good Flag, Bad Flag - North American Vexillological Association](#)

Ted said that after the selection activity the committee should have about 10 designs to move forward.

Selection Activity

All 138 flag submissions were numbered and displayed in the room. The committee was asked to walk around the room and choose the designs that they liked and discuss the reasons why they chose the designs. From the discussions the committee narrowed the designs down to about 20 to move forward.

There was a break for lunch at 11:30 a.m.

Staff then grouped selected designs by common themes – river, Fort Vancouver, “V” shape, trees, clock tower. The committee then chose 10 designs and discussed the elements of those flags that they thought best represented Vancouver and made recommendations on how they could be modified. There was consensus on simple flags, water as an element and connecting Vancouver geographically on the flag. It was noted that most of the flags have color contrast issues that need to be corrected.

Next Steps

Laura said that she will provide the committee’s suggestions to NAVA to make their refinements. Once the refinements are received another meeting will be scheduled for the committee to choose the finalists.

Election of Vice Chair

The committee unanimously elected Hector to serve as Vice Chair.

Adjourned: 1:45 p.m.

Next Meeting:

TBD

Virtual

