



Memorandum

Date: 4/14/2026  
Meeting of: City Council Special Meeting

File No. SPC 26-032  
Type: Verbal Report

TO: Members of the City Council  
FROM: Mayor Angela Birney  
DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR CONTACT(S):

Executive	Malisa Files	425-556-2166
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DEPARTMENT STAFF:

Executive	Cheryl Xanthos	City Clerk
Executive	Kalli Biegel	Deputy City Clerk

**TITLE:**  
Commission Candidate Interviews

**OVERVIEW STATEMENT:**

There is currently one opening and one vacancy on the Arts and Culture Commission, due to the resignation of Menka Soni and the term expiration of Latha Sambamurti.

The press release advertising these openings was posted on February 3, 2026, and can be viewed at: [City Seeks Volunteer Arts and Culture Commissioners Redmond, WA](https://www.redmond.gov/m/newsflash/home/detail/2798) <<https://www.redmond.gov/m/newsflash/home/detail/2798>>. Initial interviews were conducted, and Joyce Kakariyil-Paul and Rik Deskin were selected to move forward in the process.

There are two openings on the Human Services Commission, due to the resignations of Kathleen Reynolds and Marilyn Lazaro.

The press release advertising these openings was posted on January 22, 2026, and can be viewed at: [Human Services Commission Seeks a New Member Redmond, WA](https://www.redmond.gov/m/newsflash/home/detail/2780) <<https://www.redmond.gov/m/newsflash/home/detail/2780>>. Initial interviews were conducted and Sabrina Sevilla and Sonya Lawson-Salmasi were selected to move forward.

All candidates were interviewed by Mayor Birney and have been recommended to interview with Council.

Joyce Kakariyil-Paul would take the seat left by Latha Sambamurti.  
Rik Deskin would take the seat left by Menka Soni.  
Sabrina Sevilla would take the seat left by Kathleen Reynolds.  
Sonya Lawson-Salmasi would take the seat left by Marilyn Lazaro.

Additional Background Information/Description of Proposal Attached

**REQUESTED ACTION:**

- Receive Information       Provide Direction       Approve

**REQUEST RATIONALE:**

- **Relevant Plans/Policies:**  
N/A
- **Required:**  
Council confirmation is required for Commission Member mayoral appointments.  
  
RMC: 4.15.010(A)  
RMC: 4.30.050(A)
- **Council Request:**  
N/A
- **Other Key Facts:**  
N/A

**OUTCOMES:**

If appointment is confirmed by Council, the candidates would serve until the term expirations below:

**Arts and Culture Commission**

Joyce Kakariyil-Paul      First Term to Expire: March 31, 2029  
Rik Deskin                First Term to Expire: March 31, 2029

**Human Services Commission**

Sabrina Sevilla            First Term to Expire: March 31, 2027  
Sonya Lawson-Salmasi   First Term to Expire: March 31, 2029

**COMMUNITY/STAKEHOLDER OUTREACH AND INVOLVEMENT:**

- **Timeline (previous or planned):**  
N/A
- **Outreach Methods and Results:**  
These openings were advertised, and all completed applications were reviewed.
- **Feedback Summary:**  
N/A

**BUDGET IMPACT:**

**Total Cost:**  
N/A

Approved in current biennial budget:  Yes  No  N/A

Budget Offer Number:  
N/A

Budget Priority:  
N/A

Other budget impacts or additional costs:  Yes  No  N/A

If yes, explain:  
N/A

Funding source(s):  
N/A

Budget/Funding Constraints:  
N/A

Additional budget details attached

**COUNCIL REVIEW:**

**Previous Contact(s)**

Date	Meeting	Requested Action
N/A	Item has not been presented to Council	N/A

**Proposed Upcoming Contact(s)**

Date	Meeting	Requested Action
4/21/2026	Business Meeting	Approve

**Time Constraints:**

These seats are currently vacant.

**ANTICIPATED RESULT IF NOT APPROVED:**

If Council decides not to confirm appointment, recruitment efforts would need to continue.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

None.