

CITY OF ELLENSBURG

Date of Meeting

Time of Meeting

Place of Meeting

Minutes of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

Commission Meeting

August 8, 2023

3:00 PM

Zoom only

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

The Chair called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m.

Roll Call Present: Nancy Goodloe, Mayra Colazo, Olene Togiallua, Alex Mandujano and Tylenne Carnell

Also present: Nicole Klauss, Public Information Officer (Recording Secretary); Carolyn Thurston, Director of the DRC; Lucinda Carnell, CWU liaison; and 1 member of the public

Commissioner Carnell moved to approve an excused absence for Commissioner Cleary and Commissioner Hoefer. Commissioner Mandujano seconded the motion. **Motion approved 4-0.**

2. Approval of the Agenda

Commissioner Carnell moved to approve the agenda. Commissioner Colazo seconded the motion. **Motion approved 4-0.**

3. Approval of Minutes from July 11, 2023 Meeting

Commissioner Carnell moved to approve the July 11, 2023 meeting minutes. Commissioner Togiallua seconded the motion. **Motion approved 4-0.**

4. Previous Meeting Motions And To-Do List Review

- Nicole needs to set up time for two commissioners to go to another commission meeting. **Klauss to set one up for September.**
- DEI Commission will continue conversation about what is a safe community on agendas. **This will be added to retreat agenda.**

5. Liaison Reports

Lucinda Carnell: CWU Public Affairs is going to do a series of workshops over next year to train the community and public at being better at advertising and promotion, such as photography, writing, etc. They want to make sure the workshops are open to the community. If we have events we want to promote at CWU, email Dania Cochran. That goes to executive leadership team, they can put it out on Central Today, and it goes to student senate.

Lucinda will follow up with Chief of Staff to ask about Belonging In The Burg room space/event for fall.

6. Subcommittee Reports

Commissioner Colazo attended the Unity Park meeting and suggested a representative from the Native American community if talking about the Land Acknowledgement. They are still working on design, art, water theme, and associated costs.

The Listening Tour subcommittee needs to elect a chair for the subcommittee. Commissioner Mandujano will set up meeting.

7. Commission Member Reports

Chair Goodloe and Carnell met with LTAC last week.

Chair Goodloe met with new ESD superintendent who is on board with MOU and is looking for someone interested in liaison position. Hope to have a name in the next few months.

Sophie Wagner might be the EDA liaison. Waiting on official confirmation.

8. New Business

A. The Commission reviewed the grant subcommittee's recommendation for funding. Commissioner Carnell made the motion to approve the subcommittee's grant recommendations and forwarded them to the Ellensburg City Council for approval at the August 21 meeting. Commissioner Mandujano seconded the motion.

There was discussion about the process. The commission had more than \$13,000 in requests but only \$4,000 for funding. One application was ineligible as the event had passed. It might be good to put a limit on how much one organization can apply for in future.

Motion approved 4-0.

8.B Review partnership opportunity with Dispute Resolution Center
Carolyn Thurston from Dispute Resolution Center of Yakima & Kittitas Counties shared information about creating a Central Washington Equity Coalition.

The idea is that the DRC could serve the coalition by providing member recruitment, an organizational hub, facilitation of meetings, mentoring recruitment, development and modeling, and training in empathic listening, cross-cultural dialogue, and conflict resolution skills in English and Spanish.

Thurston asked the commission if it is a good idea. Mandujano said the idea of joining other groups is appealing.

CWU Liaison Lucinda Carnell said the initiative is great because CWU gets a lot of students from Yakima and locally there are a lot of new people in the community wanting to be engaged and do this kind of work.

Thurston said the Commission should have a conversation with each other and talk about where they'd like to see it go. She is willing to be involved in conversations in the future. Next steps starts with DEI Commission having a conversation without Thurston present to talk about what they like, don't like, and if they have bandwidth.

Carnell would be interested in hearing from people who were part of the North Central Washington Equity Coalition about what they've done, what worked, or didn't work.

There was positive feedback about the idea, but it will be added to the September agenda for additional discussion.

8.C Discuss Hispanic Heritage Month Proclamation

The commission continued conversation about terminology related to Hispanic Heritage Month.

Commissioner Mandujano said one of the biggest issues with terminology used nowadays is that it's been in place for so many years that people are just accepting it. Latino is not the same thing as Hispanic. If referring to language, they should be referred to as a Spanish-speaker. If referring as identity, the general term should be Latinos.

There was a suggestion to change the title to Hispanic/Latinx Heritage Month and then making sure the body of the proclamation includes information about the differences. Commissioner Mandujano will review the proclamation and propose changes to Klauss by the August 18 deadline. Need to update the population numbers in the proclamation too.

8.D Finalize list of Proclamations/Recognition Days to send to Council for approval

The Commission updated the proclamations list updated to reflect Hispanic/Latinx Heritage Month, remove National Day of Prayer, remove International Men's, and remove Patriot Day & National Day of Service. The Commission added El Dia De Los Muertos to the list of recognition days. There were comments about keeping the proclamations or days of recognition related to DEI and elevating awareness of marginalized communities.

Commissioner Colazo motioned to send the list to the City Council. Commissioner Togiallua seconded the motion. **Motion approved 4-0.**

8.E Review Recommendation On Public Comment Requirements

Commissioner Carnell sent it to Cleary and Hoefer to review for editing.

9. Staff Report

Klauss reported the retreat is from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. at City Hall.

The commission still has one vacancy.

10. Public Comment

Chair Goodloe called for public comment; there was none.

11. Preview Next Meeting September , 2023

- Robert's Rules vs consensus model (discussion led by City Manager)
- Review recommendation on public comment requirements
- Adopt completed to-do list item list, adopt new goals from retreat
- Discussion about coalition, direction we see this going
 - Feedback on the idea, if support idea of DRC facilitating project, what comes out of discussions, ideas for next steps

Meeting adjourned at 4:35 p.m.

Nicole Klauss

Drafted: 8/9/23

Approved: 9/12/23