

**CITY OF ELLENSBURG**

**Date of Meeting**

**Time of Meeting**

**Place of Meeting**

**Minutes of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion**

**Commission Meeting**

**November 14, 2023**

**3:00 PM**

**City Hall Council Chambers & Zoom**

**1. Call to Order and Roll Call**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

Roll Call Present: Nancy Goodloe, Phil Backlund, Tylene Carnell, Kandee Cleary, Teresa Divine, Mayra Colazo (via Zoom), and Amber Hoefer (via Zoom).

Absent: Olene Togiallua; Alex Mandujano (excused)

Also present: Nicole Klauss, Public Information Officer (Recording Secretary); Heidi Behrends Cerniwey, City Manager; Kelle Vandenberg, Arts & Economic Development Manager; Arts Commission Chair Alex Eyre; Christina Barrigan, CWU; Janie Zencak, CWU; Carolyn Thurston, Executive Director of the Dispute Resolution Center of Yakima & Kittitas Counties; Lucinda Carnell, CWU liaison; Sophie Wagner, EDA liaison; and Rhonda Schmidt, ESD liaison.

Commissioner Cleary moved to approve an excused absence for Alex Mandujano. Commissioner Divine seconded the motion. **Motion approved 5-0. Commissioner Colazo was not yet in the meeting.**

**2. Approval of the Agenda**

The Commission agreed to the agenda, no motion was made.

**3. Approval of Minutes from October 10, 2023, Meeting**

Klauss mentioned she updated two errors in the minutes, the place of meeting and the roll call. Commissioner Cleary moved to approve the minutes from the October 10, 2023, DEI Commission Meeting. Commissioner Carnell seconded the motion. **Motion approved 5-0. Commissioner Colazo was not yet in the meeting.**

**4. Presentation About Certified Creative District**

Arts and Economic Development Manager Kelle Vandenberg gave a presentation about the Certified Creative District Designation and the benefits it will bring to Ellensburg. Vandenberg asked if someone from the DEI Commission would be willing to serve as a representative on the Ellensburg Arts & Cultural Alliance. Commissioner Hoefer expressed an interest in learning more about the time commitment. Klauss will connect Hoefer with Vandenberg.

**5. Previous Meeting Motions And To-Do List Review**

## 90-Day Goals

- CWU/City collaboration to engage students with off-campus resources. **No update.**
- Continue World Café conversations and expand topics of discussion. **The group met and discussed Belonging in the Burg being centered around students. Considering end of February or end of March. They will continue discussions in January.**
- Develop partnerships for planning a multicultural event to celebrate the opening of Unity Park that focuses on music, food, dance, etc. **No updates.**
- Schedule a date for a Juneteenth celebration and form a planning committee with community volunteers. **No updates.**
- Explore coalition partnership idea with the Dispute Resolution Center and others **Phil, Amber & Nancy will follow up with Carolyn outside of meeting. Loop in Kelle Vandenberg.**
- Meet with the Farmer's Market and Night Market organizers to discuss a multicultural day at the Farmers Market and possibly sponsoring vendors **Teresa has reached out but no response. Nicole to ask Brad for farmers market contact City has listed.**
- Put listening tour data into a document for review and discuss how to use the data **Group met and discussed possible groups they want to meet with. Group needs to send notes to Nicole.**
- Explore the pizza klatch idea **Done. This was fast-tracked at the high school. They are in their fourth week of holding the pizza klatches and are averaging 16-18 students a week.**

## 6. Liaison Reports

New ESD liaison Rhonda Schmidt made an introduction.

New EDA liaison Sophie Wagner made an introduction.

## 7. Subcommittee Reports

### A. Parliamentary Procedure Update

Cleary, Hoefer, Carnell, and Backlund met to discuss Robert's Rules and process. They came to the conclusion that Robert's Rules does allow them to do what they want to accomplish. They discussed the challenges of not knowing the rules or authorities. They want more organic conversation to discuss the motion. Language can be clunky, so there is a need to help educate each other on process. The Chair has more authority and can use that flexibility to achieve discussion goals. The emphasis should not be on the decision but on a good conversation before the next step.

## 8. Commission Member Reports

Carnell reported there is an opportunity for Safe Space training. Reach out to Helen House or Kittitas County Health Network to set up. Carnell reported the Kittitas County youth serving organizations met again and continue to learn about each other; two Upper County organizations joined. They are brainstorming an end of the year activity. Carnell reported TransRuralLives.org is archiving the experiences of trans people over 50 years old who live in rural areas. There is a fundraiser for the event on December 2 at Gallery One and tickets can be purchased online.

Goodloe said the Human Library is set for Nov. 18 at 10 a.m. at Hal Holmes. Goodloe reported there is a Vox Humana concert at the Methodist Church on Nov. 17 at 7 p.m., and it also includes poetry with Ellensburg's Poet Laureate.

Divine reported the Ellensburg Bail Fund is onboarding a new board member. The application is now available in Spanish thanks to the DEI Commission grant. Ellensburg Bail Fund is going to do a campaign at the jail to get people home for Christmas.

Goodloe asked Colazo about CWDR's downtown cleanup. Colazo said it did not have as many participants as they'd hoped so next year they might partner with the EDA's cleanup.

Colazo reported Central Washington Disability Resources is looking for board members and they are below the minimum required. Colazo has been hearing from the Hispanic/Latino community about what happened at the November City Council meeting regarding the hate speech.

Hoefer reported attending the Environmental Commission meeting with Goodloe.

## **9. New Business**

### **A. Central Washington Equity Coalition: Review and discuss Wenatchee model**

Carolyn Thurston talked about the Wenatchee model (North Central Equity Alliance) and its initiative to bring businesses, organizations, and people committed to DEI work together. Thurston is going to reach out to a former colleague at CWU who was involved with the group to find out what their current status and activities are.

The Commission expressed an interest in exploring the idea further. Hoefer, Backlund, Goodloe, and Vandenberg will set a time to meet with Thurston to discuss possible next steps.

## **9. Staff Report**

Klauss said the December meeting needs to be kept on schedule as commission will need to review the sustainability plan. If it's not needed, Klauss will email a cancellation.

## **10. Public Comment**

Chair Goodloe called for public comment. Kelle Vandenberg provided public comment about using MyEllensburg.com's calendar as a way to promote events.

**11. Preview Next Meeting December 12, 2023**

- Sustainability Plan review
- Update on what Council discussed

Meeting adjourned at 4:31 p.m.

Nicole Klauss

**Drafted: 11/15/2023**

**Approved: 12/12/2023**