

CITY OF ELLENSBURG

Date of Meeting

Time of Meeting

Place of Meeting

Minutes of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

Commission Meeting

April 9, 2024

3:00 PM

Council Conference Room & Zoom

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

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

Roll Call Present: Nancy Goodloe, Phil Backlund, Tylene Carnell, Kandee Cleary, Mayra Colazo, Teresa Divine, and Alex Mandujano.

Also present: Nicole Klauss, Public Information Officer (Recording Secretary); Heidi Behrends Cerniwey, City Manager; Rhonda Schmidt, ESD liaison; Dr. Eliann Carr, EPD Criminal Analyst; EPD Chief Ken Wade; Lucinda Carnell, CWU liaison; and two members of the public via virtual participation.

Commissioner Backlund moved to approve the excused absence for Commissioner Hoefer. Commissioner Cleary seconded the motion. **Motion approved 6-0.**

2. Approval of the Agenda

Chair Goodloe said item 4B needed to be removed and pushed to the May agenda. Commissioner Carnell moved to approve the amended agenda. Commissioner Backlund seconded the motion. There was no discussion. **Motion approved 6-0.**

3. Approval of Minutes from March 12, 2024, Meeting

Commissioner Carnell moved to approve the minutes from the March 12, 2024, DEI Commission Meeting. Commissioner Cleary seconded the motion. There was no discussion. **Motion approved 6-0.**

4. New Business

A. Ellensburg Police Department – 2024 Community Survey Results

Dr. Eliann Carr presented on the Ellensburg Police Department's survey collection process, demographics, and results. EPD is planning to make the survey an annual survey so they can see the change.

Commissioner Backlund suggested next time doing focused and targeted solicitation of responses to get more participation from demographics that represent the percentage of populations in our community.

Surveys were available via paper or electronic format in English and Spanish. A QR code was available so people could scan and go directly to the survey. It was also shared online. Paper copies went to the Library, City Hall, HopeSource, and the Cold Weather Shelter.

Commissioner Carnell said the commission's role is to consider how to uplift and recognize diversity in community and make sure voices are included, and suggested adding other locations like the food bank, APOYO, and the clothing bank to allow for greater diversity in response.

Chief Wade said EPD worked with HopeSource, and surveys were taken into the field with client managers who work with homeless populations.

Goodloe said the DEI Commission could be helpful in raising the level of participation next year.

B. Rapid Response Recommendation

Goodloe shared the hate speech Zoom bombing is an ongoing issue nationwide. She recently attended a workshop discussing the issue and sometimes there are keywords people say before hate speech. Other cities' responses are consistent with what the City of Ellensburg is doing. It puts a major responsibility on the mayor and having a statement ready.

Commissioner Cleary said limiting virtual comments is not going to stop people from saying what they want to say. Commissioner Mandujano said the best approach is to require people to pre-register and include some brief expectations on dos and don'ts.

Commissioner Carnell said she didn't think there was anything to put in place to stop this from happening. Part of it is recognizing that the views of the person spewing hateful comments are not the views or values of the City. Carnell suggested adding virtual comments on non-agenda items back because the goal is to remove barriers for participation to increase the amount of voices that have access to the City, government and programs.

Goodloe said some cities are examining council rules. Council delayed discussion of bringing back virtual comments on non-agenda items until the new Councilmember was onboarded. It will be revisited soon.

Carnell said part of this process will be putting something in place and then revisiting it to see how it is working.

Commissioner Backlund moved to approve the list of recommendations regarding the City Council's recent vote to eliminate virtual public comment on non-agenda items at City Council meetings and send the recommendations to City Council. Commissioner Cleary seconded the motion. During discussion, Commissioner Cleary amended the motion to add a note about requiring preregistration and listing the topic they want to talk about. Commissioner Divine seconded the amendment. There was no discussion. **The motion to amend the motion passed 6-0. The amended motion passed 6-0.**

Goodloe said the Council may or may not implement the recommendations.

5. Previous Meeting Motions and 90-Day To-Do List Review:

There was not time for the review of previous meeting motions or the to-do list.

6. Liaison Reports

Lucinda Carnell reported there was an incident in CWU's community last week that deeply impacted them involving an esteemed colleague and CWU police. The CWU president issued a statement. CWU is doing some self-reflection and reviewing how it can learn from the incident. There will be a stronger emphasis on bias training.

7. Subcommittee Reports

There was not time for subcommittee reports.

8. Commission Member Reports

Commissioner Backlund reported the World Café is Saturday. Chair Goodloe said Mandujano, Cleary, Carnell, and Backlund will be facilitators. Klauss asked members to share the event. Commissioner Mandujano met with students on campus at SLICE and shared the flyers.

The Zoom training will be sent out afterward for those who cannot make it.

Goodloe reported the Juneteenth Committee met and will come back at the May meeting with recommendations on spending requests.

9. Staff Report

There was not time for a report.

10. Preview Next Meeting May 14, 2024

- Aaron Reiman OPMA Training
- Jeremy Johnston: Comprehensive Plan Goals, Policies & Programs Discussion
- DEI Grant funding

Meeting adjourned at 4:35 p.m.

Nicole Klauss

Drafted: 4/10/2024

Approved: 5/14/2024