



CITY OF ELLENSBURG

Minutes of Environmental Commission, Regular Meeting

Date of Meeting

February 21, 2024

Time of Meeting

5:15 PM

Place of Meeting

**Council Conference Room
501 North Anderson Street
Ellensburg, WA 98926
And remotely via Zoom**

1. Call to Order and Roll Call of Members

Christina Wollman called the meeting to order at 5:15 p.m.

Present: Christina Wollman, Jean Marie Linhart, Jess Black, Raven Harlin, Brenda Devore

Absent: Kristine Steinkoenig, Aaron Peterson

Also Present: Jeremy Johnston-Planning Manager; Laura Wilson-Planner; Kathy Boots-Planning Technician; Nichole Baker-Sustainability & Energy Coordinator; Lily Frey-Housing & Grant Administrator; Chuck Doan-Building Official; Derek Mayo-City Engineer; Heidi Behrends Cerniwey-City Manager; Josh Mattson-Assistant City Engineer; Ryan Lyyski-Public Works Director; Nancy Lillquist-City Council liaison

2. Chair & Vice Chair Election

Laura Wilson opened the floor for nominations.

Christina Wollman nominated herself for Chair. No discussion. Motion passed 5-0.

Jean Marie Linhart nominated herself for Vice Chair. No discussion. Motion passed 5-0.

3. Approval of Agenda

No change in the agenda. The agenda was approved.

4. Approval of Minutes

4.A Regular Meeting Minutes December 20, 2023

Commissioner Linhart motioned to approve the December 20, 2023, regular meeting minutes. Motion passed 5-0.

4.B January 17, 2024, Meeting Cancelled, No Quorum

5. Citizen Comment

None

6. Staff Update/Discussion Items

City staff that were present introduced themselves. Brenda DeVore introduced herself as a new member of the Commission.

6.A Comprehensive Plan Update

Jeremy Johnston discussed the City Comprehensive Plan update that is due in 2026. There will either be a new chapter or section under the Environment chapter to address climate resiliency. Johnston will send out the current chapter to the Commission members for review of goals and policies with a 20-year vision. Public participation will start in June. He would like to come back in March to get feedback.

6.B Washington State Energy Code Update

Chuck Doan, the Building Official, discussed the upcoming 2021 building code adoption. He reviewed possible changes to multifamily units, electric space heating, thermal envelope, and the location of water heaters. The state will have a 40-50% reduction in carbon usage, but it has to be at 70% by 2030. The amount of energy credits required will increase, so more solar and extra insulation may be a route owners use to achieve the credits needed.

6.C Sustainability & Energy Plan Update

Nichole Baker and Heidi Behrends-Cerniwey discussed the Sustainability & Energy Plan. The plan was adopted through a resolution by the City Council in January 2024. A Commission member had suggested adding a Regional Transportation section to the plan, which was successful. This Commission will have oversight over the plan, but there is uncertainty about how the plan will be implemented. This will be a new role for the Commission that will be developed with the help of the City Manager. Members would like to be informed about how other communities are implementing their energy plans. Proposals will be brought back to the Commission so that strategies can be prioritized. A work plan will be developed.

7. New Business

7.A Set 2024 Meeting Dates

The 2024 meeting dates for the third Wednesday of the month does not conflict with any holidays and will remain the same.

8. Bicycle Advisory

8.A Wayfinding/Guide Signs

Josh Mattson discussed the way finding signs on the shared use pathways. The look of the signs and spacing were contemplated. The members would like to see signs at the intersections to the pathway. The trails have been added to the great American rail trail website and google.

8.B Downtown On-Street Bicycle/Motorcycle Parking

Josh Mattson asked for the Commission's opinions on removing bicycle parking in seven identified parking spots in the downtown. The spots are narrow and not used. Four of the parking spots will be opened up for vehicle parking. The signs for the three parking spots will be changed from motorcycle/biking to motorcycle/atv.

8.C Bicycle Friendly Community Status

Nancy Lillquist stated she would like to work regularly on implementing

changes so that when the next application is due in three years, the City can achieve gold status as previously discussed. A plan will be developed at a future meeting.

9. Adjournment

Christina Wollman will be unable to attend the March meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:37 p.m.