

AGENDA ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION September 18, 2024

Hybrid Meeting In-person and via Zoom



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Meeting ID: 821 3821 1183

Passcode: 563460

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**CITY OF ELLENSBURG
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION AGENDA**

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

**Wednesday, September 18, 2024
5:15 PM - Regular Meeting**

- 1. Call to Order and Roll Call of Members**
- 2. Approval of Agenda** (No Public Comment)
- 3. Approval of Minutes**
 - 3.A August 21, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes
- 4. New Business**
- 5. Unfinished Business**
- 6. Citizen Comment**
- 7. Bicycle Advisory**
 - 7.A Water Street Bike Lanes
 - 7.B Gold & Platinum BFC Discussion
 - 7.C Rotary Presentation Discussion
 - 7.D Cycling Infrastructure on University Way
- 8. Staff Update/Discussion Items**
 - 8.A Waste Management 5 year Extension
- 9. Adjournment**



For more information on the Environmental Commission, contact Planner Laura Wilson at 509-962-7235.



CITY OF ELLENSBURG

Minutes of Environmental Commission, Regular Meeting

Date of Meeting

August 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

Commissioner Wollman called the meeting to order at 5:16 pm.

Present: Jean Marie Linhart, Jess Black, Raven Harlin, Kristine Steingoenig, Christina Wollman

Absent: Brenda Devore

Others Present; Laura Wilson-Planner, Kathy Boots-Planning Technician, Nichole Baker-Sustainability & Energy Coordinator; Nancy Lilquist-City Council Liaison; Madison Wilson; Bobby Higginbotham; Dan Carlson-Director; Heidi Behrends Cerniwey-City Manager

Commissioner Steingoenig motioned to excuse the absence of Brenda Devore. Motion passed 5-0.

2. Approval of Agenda

Commissioner Linhart motioned to approve the agenda. Motion passed 5-0.

3. Approval of Minutes

3.A Approval of June 12, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Linhart motioned to approve the minutes from the June 12, 2024, regular meeting. Motion passed 5-0.

4. New Business

4.A Chapter 1.60 Environmental Commission Draft Code Revisions

The City Manager, Heidi Behrends Cerniwey reviewed draft changes to Chapter 1.60 Environmental Commission City Code. Cerniwey would like the Environmental Commission to be advisory on policies of the City. The Commission will be presented with sustainability actions from the City. Complete streets (transportation) will become part of the Commission's work. The group talked about the high school non-voting member. This will remain the same and staff will reach out to the high school. Discussion about whether City Council members should remain a liaison or voting member and the Commission would like them to remain a liaison. The city will be moving toward "cleaner" energy buildings. The Commission will assist in determining clean

energy priorities, grants, and water conservation. A recommendation to move forward the draft changes of Chapter 1.60 Environmental Commission City Code to City Council was made by the Commission.

5. Unfinished Business

None

6. Citizen Comment

Madison Wilson and Bobby Higginbotham introduced themselves and why they are interested in the Environmental Commission's open commission seat.

7. Bicycle Advisory

7.A Review of Gold-Platinum Bicycle Friendly Communities

Nancy Lillquist asked for volunteers to look at specific gold-platinum bicycle-friendly communities and determine how Ellensburg could raise its scores.

7.B Water Street Bike Lanes

Josh Mattson Assistant City engineer, was unable to attend the meeting. The members discussed several possibilities to increase the safety of bikers on Water Street. Educating the public is a key piece to increasing safety. The Commission would like Mattson to come to a future meeting with possible options to increase safety.

8. Staff Update/Discussion Items

8.A Waste Management Recycling Event

Nichole Baker stated that they have contacted waste management about doing a recycling event. Waste management is looking into it.

8.B State Home Electrification & Appliance Rebate (HEAR) Program update

The city has received the grant and is working on a contract for small businesses, low income, and medium income customers. The customers will have the option of upgrading appliances. Depending on the contract, the city will pay a certain amount of the cost. Public Works will hire a consultant for any cultural ground disturbing concerns or buildings over 45 years old to remain preserved. Hopesource was granted the contract to run the low income program and an agreement is close to being finalized, and then it will go to City Council for approval. The applications will be accepted through May 2025. Members were concerned there were enough installers available and equipment available.

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:29 pm.



Meeting Date: September 18, 2024

**City of Ellensburg
Environmental Commission Agenda Report**

Agenda Subject: Water Street Bike Lanes
Submitted by:
Department: Environmental Commission

Suggested Motion/Action:

Background/Summary:

The Commission discussed the possibility of adjusting the bike lane widths on Water Street after the Public Works overlay project is complete. Some of the suggestions, along with widening the bike lanes, included adding sharrows including an education component, or installing a 'pop up' bike lane for a week. The method uses traffic cones to establish the new bike lane for a short period of time. Josh Mattson, Assistant City Engineer, will provide an update with more detailed information and public education ideas.

Previous Council Action:

Analysis:

Financial Impact:

Budget Adjustment: No

Attachments:

None



Meeting Date: September 18, 2024

**City of Ellensburg
Environmental Commission Agenda Report**

Agenda Subject: Gold & Platinum BFC Discussion
Submitted by:
Department: Environmental Commission

Suggested Motion/Action:

Background/Summary:

At the February and March 2024 Environmental Commission meetings, the commission discussed the Bicycle Friendly Community application and ways to achieve Gold-Platinum status. The commission discussed researching Gold-Platinum Bicycle Friendly Communities for ideas that Ellensburg could use to achieve that status. Several commissioners chose various communities during the August meeting. Staff sent the chosen community and Ellensburg's Bicycle Friendly report cards and a link the Bicycle Friendly Community Idea Book to review prior to the September meeting. Commission members will discuss ideas during the September meeting.

Previous Council Action:

Analysis:

Financial Impact:

Budget Adjustment: No

Attachments:

None



Meeting Date: September 18, 2024

**City of Ellensburg
Environmental Commission Agenda Report**

Agenda Subject: Rotary Presentation Discussion
Submitted by:
Department: Environmental Commission

Suggested Motion/Action:

Background/Summary:

Discussion item to coordinate a presentation to Rotary to request bike helmet funding.

Previous Council Action:

Analysis:

Financial Impact:

Budget Adjustment: No

Attachments:

None



Meeting Date: September 18, 2024

**City of Ellensburg
Environmental Commission Agenda Report**

Agenda Subject: Cycling Infrastructure on University Way
Submitted by:
Department: Environmental Commission

Suggested Motion/Action:

Background/Summary:

City Council received an email from a community member regarding the lack of bike lanes on University Way after the Gateway 1 Improvement project. Council Member Lillquist referred the message to the Environmental Commission for discussion.

The following was sent:

Dear City of Ellensburg Mayor and Councilmembers,

I am a lifelong cyclist and conduct all of my local activities by bicycle, including going to dentist appointments out by the West Interchange. To get there, I take University Way from town.

Prior to the recent construction along University Way, there was a bike lane most of the way along my route. It wasn't the safest bike lane, as it often had debris in it and periodically had storm/utility grates to maneuver around, but it was MUCH BETTER than the new biking infrastructure.

In the recent 'upgrades' to University Way, the bicycling access suffered tremendously. There is now no bike lane and when I rode to the dentist's office last week, vehicles were EXTREMELY hesitant to pull into the center turn lane to pass me and were squeezing past me in the same lane, in violation of the State's 3-foot passing law (RCW 46.61.110) and causing me concern for my safety.

So, as is allowable in such circumstances (RCW 46.61.770), I decided to take the middle of the lane, but then drivers became aggressive as they were required to drive into the center turn lane to pass me.

The brick pathways that were built are not suitable for bicyclists. It is EXTREMELY JARRING to ride on the bricks, is extremely uneven, and is about 25% slower than riding on the street. Additionally, it is not where vehicles exiting the driveways of businesses along University Way expect fast-moving cyclists to be. I often notice cars parked in the middle of (and hence, completely blocking) the brick path while waiting to turn onto University Way.

Please consider re-painting the lines on University Way to include bike lanes again. Alternatively, placing signage and paint (similar to the markings on 7th Ave) indicating that cyclists may take the full lane, would be a step in the right direction to correcting this problem.

It seems clear that the voices of cyclists must be sought when trying to implement Ellensburg's Complete Streets Ordinance, as this current example highlights the fact that without our input, 'improvements' to bicycling infrastructure are rather seen as regression by the intended user group. Perhaps this is something we can discuss further with the Recycle Bike Shop.

Thank you,
Cassie Fallscheer

Previous Council Action:

Analysis:

Financial Impact:

Budget Adjustment: No

Attachments:

None



Meeting Date: September 18, 2024

**City of Ellensburg
Environmental Commission Agenda Report**

Agenda Subject: Waste Management 5 year Extension
Submitted by:
Department: Environmental Commission

Suggested Motion/Action:

Background/Summary:

Commissioner Devore previously discussed a recycling event with the Environmental Commission and subsequent discussions Waste Management. During that time, the City's contract with Waste Management was under negotiations for a 5 year extension. The contract extension was approved with several significant changes. One of the changes was to add the opportunity for the City to collaborate and have WM provide services for an annual recycling day. Item 6 on the contract reads:

6. Promotion. Section 2.3.4 of the Agreement is hereby deleted in its entirety and replaced as follows:

“The Contractor acknowledges that education and public awareness are essential elements of efforts to achieve recycling goals and recycling contamination reduction. Accordingly, the Contractor will implement a public education program to expand public and Customer awareness concerning the necessity for methods of reducing, reusing, and recycling waste materials. The Contractor shall keep the public informed of programs and encourage participation through an Annual Service Update, as described herein, provided to Single Family Residence Customers by the Contractor. The Annual Service Update may be printed and mailed or sent electronically and shall be made available on the Contractor’s website. The Annual Service Update shall include information detailing the services available to Customers, solid waste preparation requirements and other service requirements, the Contractor’s customer service contact information, office hours and office location, inclement weather and other policies, online customer service tools, and other useful information.

Key components of educational materials, including cart decals, informational brochures, postcards, and the Annual Service Update shall be made available in English and Spanish languages.

Beginning in October of 2024 and recurring annually thereafter, the Parties shall meet to discuss the following year’s public education and outreach plan. The Contractor shall consult with the City concerning any necessary adjustments to the promotional materials, however the Contractor shall be responsible for its final design, print, and distribution, including costs.”

This discussion will involve the following year's public education and outreach plan.

Previous Council Action:

Analysis:

Financial Impact:

Budget Adjustment: No

Attachments:

None