



**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 Steinkoenig, 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 Steinkoenig 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.