

CITY OF ELLENSBURG

Date of Meeting

Time of Meeting

Place of Meeting

Minutes of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

Commission Meeting

June 11, 2024

3:00 PM

Council Conference Room & Zoom

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Chair Nancy Goodloe called the meeting to order at 3:03 p.m.

Roll Call Present: Nancy Goodloe, Tylene Carnell, Kandee Cleary, Teresa Divine, Amber Hoefer, and Alex Mandujano.

Also present: Nicole Klauss, DEI Commission staff member; Environmental Commission members Raven Harwood, Nancy Lillquist, and Brenda DeVore; EDA liaison Teresa Chanes; commission applicant M. Eliatamby-O'Brien; Ramona Bryant, League of Women Voters; new CWU liaison Charlita Shelton, interim VP of Equity & Belonging at CWU; Cody Natlund; and one member of the public online.

Absent: Phil Backlund

Commissioner Cleary moved to approve an excused absence for Phil Backlund. Commissioner Carnell seconded the motion. There was no discussion. **Motion approved 5-0.**

2. Approval of the Agenda

Commissioner Cleary moved to approve the agenda. Commissioner Carnell seconded the motion. There was no discussion. **Motion approved 5-0.**

3. Approval of Minutes from May 14, 2024, Meeting

Commissioner Divine moved to approve the minutes from the May 14, 2024, DEI Commission Meeting with a correction on a number. Commissioner Cleary seconded the motion. There was no discussion. **Motion approved 5-0.**

4. New Business

A. Bicycling discussion

City Councilmember Nancy Lillquist provided some background on Ellensburg's Bicycle Friendly Silver Award and mentioned there is a desire to improve some of the equity pieces to be able to go for gold in the future and to make bicycling more accessible to everyone. Lillquist asked for feedback on the award application questions surrounding partnerships, tracking bicycle data, measures related to bicycling equity, and expanding diversity roles on the committee (Environmental Commission) to ensure the commission reflects a full range and ability level of cyclists.

Suggestions included:

- Create an incentive program for youth to learn to work on bikes.
- Track how many people load bikes on Central Transit buses.
- Do a community survey.
- Clean up debris in the bike lanes more frequently and add more bike lanes around the university.
- Consider opportunities to partner with the school district, university departments, or businesses.
- Encouraging small businesses and the university to have bike storage options and showers/spaces to change to encourage biking to school or work.
- Look at what other cities that received gold are doing around bicycling equity.
- Consider how to address safety because studies show women, people of color and LGBTQ+ folks are more likely to be harassed when riding bikes.
- Partner with Parks & Recreation to develop a youth bicycling club.
- Have a program about e-bike options and maybe a bicycle sharing program in the community.

Hoefer said Salud America has a health equity report card that includes information about transportation in Kittitas County: <https://salud-america.org/health-equity-report-card/?geoid=05000US53037>

B. Retreat Planning

Klauss reported the DEI Commission Retreat is set for Friday, September 13 from 8-2 in the Council Chambers at City Hall. All current commission members have indicated availability for this date.

Klauss and Goodloe met with a possible facilitator who is already doing work at the City. Commissioner Divine suggested Sigrid Davidson. The Commission discussed wanting to have a person with minoritized identities as a facilitator to model values through money. The commission wants potential facilitators to respond to the question “How would you describe your personal experience with marginalized identities?”

Commission members will submit potential facilitator names to staff by Friday, June 14. Klauss will reach out to the recommended people and see if they are available and interested and will ask for a quote, resume/experience, and the answer to the above question. They will be available for review at the July meeting.

Commissioner Cleary made a motion to move the \$1,300 allocated for the third World Café event to the retreat budget. Commissioner Divine seconded the motion. **Motion approved 5-0.**

The Commission would like to talk about these topics at the retreat:

- Review and update goals list
- How we can better engage with the community using new tools
- How the commission works together within its own identities and how it can advise the Council accordingly; disrupting systems of harm
- Using data in decision making (on the 3-year goal list)

- Brainstorm ideas for activities or performances for the grand opening of Unity Park (will share with the committee working on the event)

Goodloe asked if there was an interest in having the discussion at the retreat about expanding the makeup of the commission to include dominant identities and the commission members expressed concerns about bringing on voices that have been heard consistently and constantly over time. The commission agreed that was not a discussion they wanted added to the retreat agenda.

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

Carnell reported the Unity Park celebration committee met. There will be a soft opening of the park in late August, but there are items that will still be worked on after that. The City is looking at late September/early October for grand opening. The committee is thinking about incorporating the journey of how the park came to be and the types of performances and cultural opportunities they want to have.

Goodloe will follow up with Carolyn at Dispute Resolution Center.

Divine reached out to the night market and was told to connect with the Farmers Market for a day at the market event.

6. Liaison Reports

Teresa Chanes reported: Juneteenth is on June 19 from 4-9 p.m. coinciding with the Night Market. Black Grenade Entertainment will have performances at The Red Pickle. The museum will have all day programming and the CWU library has some great Juneteenth resources. The EDA received racist comments on Facebook posts of the event and are turning off comments on the posts now. Goodloe encouraged commission members to attend the Juneteenth event.

Charlita Shelton introduced herself as the new CWU liaison. She is the new interim Vice President for Equity and Belonging and Senior Diversity Officer. Charlita has worked in higher education for 35 years, has been president at two universities, and an executive director of a professional school. She has a two-year contract at CWU.

7. Subcommittee Reports

Interview Committee Updates: Chair Goodloe said one interview has been completed. We have two more set up, one in June and one in July.

8. Commission Member Reports

Commissioner Hoefer reported:

There is a Washington LGBTQ+ survey to understand the experiences of LGBTQ+ Washingtonians. It can be taken at <https://lgbtq.wa.gov/survey>

Commissioner Carnell reported:

The last pizza klatch of the year was held and saw double the number of participants. As many as 36 students show up in one day. The average was 28-30 in one week. The last one had about 60 kids.

9. Staff Report

None.

10. Public Comment

Chair Goodloe called for public comment. There was none.

Preview Next Meeting July 9, 2024

- Juneteenth recap
- Review facilitator resumes

Meeting adjourned.

Nicole Klauss

Drafted: 6/12/24

Approved: 7/9/24