

CITY OF ELLENSBURG

Date of Meeting

Time of Meeting

Place of Meeting

Minutes of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

Commission Meeting

December 12, 2023

3:00 PM

Zoom Only

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

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

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

Also present: Nicole Klauss, Public Information Officer (Recording Secretary); Ken Wade, EPD Police Chief; Eliann Carr, Crime & Intelligence Analyst; Buddy Stanavich, Energy Resources Manager; Nichole Baker, Sustainability Coordinator; Louis Spanias, Sustainability Plan Consultant; Lucinda Carnell, CWU liaison; Lily Frey; and 1 member of the public.

2. Approval of the Agenda

Chair Goodloe proposed moving items five to eight (previous meeting motions/to-do list, liaison reports, subcommittee reports, and committee reports) to the end of the agenda in the interest of getting through priority items. Commissioner Backlund moved to approve the amended agenda. Commissioner Carnell seconded the motion. All in favor. **Motion approved 7-0. Commissioner Colazo had not yet joined.**

3. Approval of Minutes from November 14, 2023, Meeting

Commissioner Hoefer moved to approve the minutes from the November 14, 2023, DEI Commission Meeting. Commissioner Cleary seconded the motion. **Motion approved 7-0. Commissioner Colazo had not yet joined.**

4. Presentations

A. EPD Safety Survey

Chief Ken Wade provided an overview on the EPD Safety Survey. Dr. Carr is EPD's new crime intelligence analyst and has experience doing community surveys. Dr. Carr is working with Dr. Cody Stoddard at CWU on the survey. The goal is to roll the survey out sometime in the next couple of weeks. Dr. Stoddard will assist in pushing it out to the CWU community. It will be pushed out by Facebook and other City platforms. The survey will be translated into Spanish. It will be open for 1 month.

The goal of the survey is to find out what the community's concerns are and then put out facts about those concerns.

There was a question from the commission about how EPD will reach diverse communities. There was a question from the commission about why people must be 18 to take the survey. There was a request to add more open-ended questions or comment areas throughout the survey rather than just at the end of the survey.

Klauss will provide contact information for Chief Wade & Dr. Carr to commission members for additional feedback.

B. Sustainability Plan Presentation

Buddy Stanavich provided information about the CCA, sustainability plan, and the assessment of vulnerable populations.

Commissioner Hoefer asked of the 312 survey responses what percentage were from a nondominant identity or vulnerable population. The survey did not track that information, but CETA requires reaching out to vulnerable populations, which is a separate process.

Commissioner Carnell asked about whether all 312 responses were in the City or if there were county residents included as well. Stanavich said the majority were City participants.

Goodloe said Stanavich is open to feedback/suggestions to make sure vulnerable communities in our city are being taken care of with our sustainability plan.

Commissioner Hoefer asked if there were roadmaps or milestones throughout the process where the City could check in with people disproportionately affected by the changes.

One of the requirements of CETA is a clean energy implementation plan, which is updated every four years. That is an opportunity to look ahead at achieving clean energy goals and show how the city is doing in meeting those goals, including not harming vulnerable populations.

9. New Business

A. Discuss Zoom Bombing

Klauss provided a background on the Zoom bombing issue at City Council meetings during the November-December meetings. The Council received a letter from concerned community members. The City is taking steps and is talking about additional ways to respond, but the Council wanted to get feedback from DEI Commission.

Goodloe said the State has a broad definition of hate speech. The things that were said did not meet that definition so Council could not cut speakers off because they were not breaking the law. What enabled staff to cut them off is their comments did not relate to the business of the City and that is part of the requirements during public comment.

Goodloe asked several questions of the commission. Question #1: Can we help mitigate the threat of these situations and if so, how?

The Commission did not like the idea of stopping public comment or doing away with Zoom. Emailing comments in ahead of time was a suggestion with the option to have them read at the meeting. There were comments about more process not solving the problem.

Commissioner Hoefer recommended the City Council model expectations and community standards. Instead of adding more barriers, the mayor could advise that the Council is against those values and here is what it means to be a part of Ellensburg.

Commissioner Carnell said hate speech could also be made in person too. It will never be completely gone, but we can minimize it with tools to shut it down early when it does happen. The Commission discussed having Council take timely action.

Question #2: How can Council effectively address the harm felt in the community when these situations occur?

The Commission suggested that the Council own mistakes and clearly articulate actions the Council will take moving forward.

Goodloe said there was a suggestion in the paper for the DEI Commission to be more involved in a response when it happens so they can address it quickly. The commission is interested in discussing what a rapid response process could look like. A rapid response team could include the mayor, manager, and DEI Commission members that could meet to develop a statement or response plan. The topic will be added to the January agenda.

B. Discuss Resolution

Goodloe said the proposed resolution for an inviting, equitable, and safe community is something she has wanted to do for a long time. The Zoom bombing opened door for possibly being able to get this passed as a response from Council. The Commission suggested a slight amendment to the resolution as presented.

Commissioner Backlund moved to approve the resolution with the changes Klauss and Hoefer will incorporate. Commissioner Cleary seconded the motion. **Motion approved 8-0.**

Due to the meeting running over the allotted time, the to-do list and previous motions review, liaison reports, subcommittee reports, commission member reports, staff report, and public comment were skipped.

12. Preview Next Meeting January 9, 2023

- Update 90-Day To-Do List: Review the one-year goals and decide if there are any that should be moved over to the next 90-day to-do list.
- Talk more about the rapid response team

Meeting adjourned at 4:42 p.m.

Nicole Klauss

Drafted: 12/13/2023

Approved: 1/9/2024