



CITY OF ELLENSBURG

Minutes of Environmental Commission, Regular Meeting

Date of Meeting

October 23, 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 5:15 pm.

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

Absent: None

Others Present: Nancy Lillquist - City Council Liaison, Dan Carlson - Community Development Director, Ryan Kellogg - Ellensburg Downtown Association, Aaron Balagot - Mid-Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group, Lily Frey - Community Development

2. Approval of Agenda

2.A 10/23/2024 Agenda

Commissioner Linhart moved to approve the agenda with the addition of a discussion item of Environmental Commission representation on the Transportation Safety Committee. Motion passed 6-0.

3. Approval of Minutes

3.A Approval of Minutes - 9/18/2024

Commissioner Linhart moved to approve the 9/18/24 meeting minutes. Motion passed 6-0.

4. New Business

4.A 2025 Water Quality Grant Application Presentations

Ryan Kellogg presented the Ellensburg Downtown Association (EDA) application for the 2025 grant. The EDA would establish an additional pet relief station at a vacant downtown node following the model of the existing node station at 4th and Pine. Project benefits would include additional filtration and management of pet waste and would benefit downtown residents, business owners and visiting pet owners. As with the existing node, the EDA would provide weeding and any needed maintenance. The City would water the turf once per week and provide pet waste bags. The proposal budget is based on the cost for the 4th and Pine station. Planned outreach includes fliers to downtown businesses and residences. Commissioners clarified if there was

additional funding, winter maintenance, signage, and measurable outcomes.

Aaron Balagot presented the Mid-Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group's application for the 2025 water quality grant, which would continue support of their Adopt-a-Stream program. The proposal includes logistical support to eight groups who steward sections of creeks in Ellensburg through semi-annual clean-ups and provide for program expansion (targeting an additional three groups). Their proposal also includes a specific project for the removal of an invasive crack willow and replacement with a variety of native species as a demonstration project with high visibility at HayDay. Balagot shared past program accomplishments and success measures for 2025 including the number of events and volunteers participating in each and signs installed about the project and active groups. Commissioners asked about planned program expansion and past measurable outcomes.

Commissioners completed individual scoresheets and discussed their analysis. Commissioners agreed that the Mid-Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group proposal much more closely aligns with the grant aims of directly affecting water quality and providing public education opportunities. Commissioner Linhart moved to recommend that Council allocate the full grant amount to Mid-Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group for the adopt a stream project. Motion passed 6-0.

5. Unfinished Business

None

6. Citizen Comment

None

7. Bicycle Advisory

7.A Bicycle Advisory Report

Commissioners reported on presentations to the three Ellensburg Rotary groups on bike events and opportunities to support in 2025. Commissioner Devore presented to 21 members of the noon Rotary group and received a commitment of bikes for repair. Commissioners planned follow-up messaging to learn more about Rotary budgeting timelines and potential contributions.

Councilmember Lillquist reported that the Mountains to Sound Greenway, Central Washington University (CWU) and the City are preparing a joint grant proposal to support work on the Palouse to Cascades reconnection route and a CWU bikeshare program. The proposal is due in mid-November.

Councilmember Lillquist shared ideas and requested suggestions for highlighting the value to local businesses of becoming a bicycle-friendly business. Commissioners discussed ideas such as potential incentives for employees or business promotion through guides and sources like the Chamber of Commerce's MyEllensburg page to complement the current offering.

8. Staff Update/Discussion Items

Commissioner Devore reported on conversations with Waste Management and City staff. The City contract with Waste Management includes a spring event. City Sustainability and Energy Coordinator Nichole Baker will be involved in planning and the Environmental Commission would like to participate.

Commissioner Linart reported that the Transportation Safety Committee is seeking participation from an Environmental Commission member for a limited-duration project to develop a safety action plan. Commissioner Harlin volunteered.

Commission meetings will remain scheduled for November and December 2024 with a call for agenda items about a week in advance. Councilmember Wollman offered to coordinate with staff on agenda planning.

9. Adjournment

Commissioner Wollman adjourned the meeting at 6:51 pm.