

CITY OF ELLENSBURG

Date of Meeting

Time of Meeting

Place of Meeting

Minutes of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

Commission Meeting

October 8, 2024

3:00 PM

Council Chambers & Zoom

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

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

Roll Call Present: Nancy Goodloe, Phil Backlund, Amber Hoefer, Alex Mandujano, Tylen Carnell, and Serena Turney. M. Eliatamby-O'Brien was traveling and connected to the meeting about halfway through due to internet stability issues.

Also present: Nicole Klauss, DEI Commission staff member; Heidi Behrends Cerniwey, City Manager; Ramona Bryant, Kittitas League of Women Voters; CWU liaison Charlita Shelton; and 2 members of the public.

Commissioner Tylen Carnell moved to approve an excused absence for Teresa Divine, Kandee Cleary, and M. Eliatamby-O'Brien. Commissioner Phil Backlund seconded the motion. There was no discussion. **Motion approved 5-0.**

Commissioner Eliatamby-O'Brien was not yet at the meeting.

2. Approval of the Agenda

Commissioner Phil Backlund moved to approve the agenda. Commissioner Alex Mandujano seconded the motion. There was no discussion. **Motion approved 5-0.**

Commissioner Eliatamby-O'Brien was not yet at the meeting.

3. Approval of Minutes from August 13, 2024, Meeting and September 13, 2024 DEI Commission Retreat

Commissioner Tylen Carnell moved to approve the minutes from the August 13, 2024, DEI Commission Meeting and the September 13, 2024 DEI Commission Retreat.

Commissioner Alex Mandujano seconded the motion. There was no discussion. **Motion approved 5-0. Commissioner Eliatamby-O'Brien was not yet at the meeting.**

4. New Business

A. Ellensburg Academy

City Manager Heidi Behrends-Cerniwey talked about the upcoming Ellensburg Academy on October 24, 2024 and invited commission members to attend.

Commissioner Backlund asked about future topics. Commissioner Carnell asked about a virtual option; at this time there is no virtual component.

B. Retreat Debrief

Commission members expressed they were happy about the retreat, the external facilitator was helpful, and it was a good opportunity to humanize each other. The next steps are to finalize 2025 goals.

Goodloe said one of the ideas that was discussed was connecting with Council in a more meaningful way.

November's meeting will include discussion of goals for 2025 and review of the proposed spending plan. Goodloe, Vice Chair Carnell, and the city staff met as the executive committee for development of the meeting agenda and will do so regularly.

Goodloe asked that the commission send a thank you card to the retreat facilitator.

C. Unity Park Celebration Recap

Klauss provided an update that the Unity Park grand opening celebration took place and was well attended. Goodloe said it was clear the speakers and performers were on board with the mission the DEI Commission wants to accomplish at the park. Klauss shared a thank you note from Yellowash of the Yakama Nation.

Goodloe said the City Council saw a mockup of the art piece that was selected for Unity Park and it brings everything together with the community and the environment. It will be ready to unveil next June.

D. Annual Report to Council

Klauss discussed the upcoming annual report being due to present to Council at the December 2 meeting. Klauss asked for assistance with the report. Carnell, Backlund, and Turney indicated they would work on a draft report to be reviewed at the November DEI Commission meeting. Klauss will send Carnell the list of accomplishments.

5. Liaison Reports

CWU liaison Charlita Shelton reported the quarter has started at CWU and they've been welcoming the affinity groups. The LGBTQ+ student reception was well attended. Shelton introduced Dr. Raymond Reyes who was previously a chief diversity officer at Gonzaga. Reyes will be helping with some workshops at CWU.

Klauss read two brief updates that were emailed in from other liaisons: The Ellensburg Downtown Association partnered with Alex Mandujano to translate some of their fall programming into Spanish, ensuring greater accessibility for the community. The Ellensburg School District is working with their anti-bullying consultant to figure out if November 16 will work for a World Café event.

6. Subcommittee Reports

The Listening Tour Subcommittee reported holding a listening tour with a group of about a dozen Nepalese residents and they will fill out the recap form soon. They are in the process of scheduling three more listening tours for the fall.

Backlund introduced the new listening tour questions and moved to accept the new policy document. There was no second.

Goodloe opened discussion about the reason for the change. The group is going to take one more look at the policy document, questions, and statement read ahead of the listening tour session, and will provide suggested changes to Backlund ahead of the next meeting. It will be on the November agenda for consideration.

The Commission held a discussion about appropriate response when someone shares an incident that is emotional or traumatic. They discussed providing resources such as the KCHN resource guide and possibly a pared down version of resources.

7. Commission Member Reports

There were no commission member reports.

8. Staff Report

Klauss reported:

- Please check your email regularly. Stick to using email communications for public records retention.
- There are currently vacancies on the: Environmental Commission (1), Landmarks & Design Commission - (1 - professional), LEOFF 1 Disability Board (2), Library Board (1), Parks and Recreation Commission (2), Planning Commission (1), Public Transit Advisory Committee (1), and Utility Advisory Committee (1 - telecommunications utility customer). Encourage your networks to consider applying.
- Save the date for the Human Library: Saturday, October 19, 2024 from 2-6 p.m. at the Hal Holmes Community Center.

9. Public Comment

Chair Goodloe called for public comment.

Jeff Watson with Yakima Valley Conference of Governments talked about the Switch Your Trips program which encourages people to get out of single occupancy vehicles in the month of October. People who complete and log 10 trips using a qualifying alternate travel option can be entered to win a prize. Visit switchyourtrips.com for more info.

Next Meeting November 12, 2024

Topics: 2025 Goals and budget discussion, revisit Listening Tour policy, and review the 2024 Annual Report To Council.

Meeting adjourned at 4:13 p.m.

Nicole Klauss

Drafted: 10/10/24

Approved: 11/12/24