

CITY OF ELLENSBURG

Date of Meeting

Time of Meeting

Place of Meeting

Minutes of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

Commission Meeting

November 12, 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: Phil Backlund, Tylene Carnell, Kandee Cleary, Teresa Divine, Nancy Goodloe, Alex Mandujano, and M. Eliatamby-O'Brien.

Commissioner Backlund moved to approve an excused absence for Commissioners Serena Turney and Amber Hoefer. Commissioner Cleary seconded the motion. **Motion approved 6-0.**

Also present: Nicole Klauss, DEI Commission staff member; Charlita Shelton, CWU liaison; Rhonda Schmidt, ESD liaison; Ramona Bryant, League of Women Voters of Kittitas County; and one member of the public via Zoom.

2. Approval of the Agenda

Commissioner Carnell moved to approve the agenda. Commissioner Eliatamby-O'Brien seconded the motion. There was no discussion. **Motion approved 6-0.**

3. Approval of Minutes from October 8, 2024 DEI Commission Meeting

Commissioner Carnell moved to approve the minutes from the October 8, 2024, DEI Commission Meeting. Commissioner Backlund seconded the motion. There was no discussion. **Motion approved 6-0.**

4. New Business

A. Review Draft Annual Report

Klauss reported that Commissioner Carnell drafted the report and asked for changes. Chair Goodloe suggested adding the # of groups or # of people the Listening Tour spoke with, adding the word "Black" before history and culture in the third paragraph, making it clear the City Council instructed the commission to have discussions about virtual comments, reworking language in the World Café sentence, adding the Unity Park Planning Committee, and breaking up a paragraph.

Commissioner Divine recommended approving the amended report and sending it to the City Council. Commissioner Cleary seconded the motion. **Motion approved 6-0.**

B. 2025 Goals

Klauss led the commission through an exercise to come up with new 1-year goals. Prior to the meeting, Klauss added a section to the goals list with the commission's ongoing goals.

New 1-year goals include:

- Put data into a document for review, discuss how to use the data, and put a structure in place to be able to use data (e.g. listening tour data)
- Meet with the Farmer's Market and Night Market organizers to discuss a multicultural day at the Farmers Market/Unity Park and possibly sponsoring vendors to get more diverse vendors
- Support Pride events every June
- Begin engagement with citywide inclusive art in order to develop further representation
- Commission becomes size to reflect diversity in community (*Discussion*)

Commissioner Carnell suggested support for the Pride events doesn't have to be financial. There may be an opportunity to do something such as have public officials participate in the parade or be speakers. Commissioner Eliatamby-O'Brien suggested there may be other Pride events happening during the month that could also use support.

The Commission expressed an interest in inviting the Farmers Market manager to an upcoming meeting to continue discussing the partnership for 2025.

Commissioner Eliatamby-O'Brien mentioned starting the discussion in 2025 on BIPOC Business Day. Since the commission is already working with vendors, they could expand discussions and talk to small businesses.

The Commission expressed an interest in reflecting cultures and communities in art projects that happen around the city and to be available to offer feedback or engagement about representation.

It was suggested to add the Listening Tour data and the meeting with the market manager items to the 90-day goal list.

C. Review Draft Spending Plan

Klauss provided a review of the proposed 2025 spending plan, developed by the DEI Commission's executive committee (Chair Goodloe, Vice Chair Carnell, and staff member Klauss). Commission member Backlund moved to approve the 2025 spending plan as presented. Commissioner Cleary seconded the motion. During discussion, Commissioner Carnell remarked that it is hard to do everything the commission wants to do with a \$10,000 budget. Chair Goodloe reported she has been in discussions with the City Manager about finding a dedicated source of funding that doesn't come from the City's general fund because that is running lean this year. There is nothing in the works, but it's an ongoing conversation. **Motion approved 6-0.**

D. Revisit Listening Tour Policy

The Commission recommended moving this topic to the December meeting for additional time to provide feedback to Commissioner Backlund.

5. Liaison Reports

Charlita Shelton reported:

- Matika Wilbur, a well-known Native American photographer, will be at CWU for a presentation, on Tuesday, November 19, 2024 in the SURC Ballroom at 6 p.m. Get tickets on CWU's website.
- The CWU Office of Equity and Belonging is hosting Dr. Deena Gonzalez, a preeminent scholar of Chicana, Latina, Native American, and Indigenous history on March 13-14, 2025. Patrisse Cullors, co-founder of Black Lives Matter, will be the keynote speaker for the Annual Diversity Awards on April 17, 2025. Judy and Dennis Shepard, founders of the Matthew Shepard Foundation and advocates for human rights, will be giving a keynote address on May 14, 2025.

Rhonda Schmidt reported:

- ESD started a strategic planning process looking at what attributes they want students to come away with, looking at the whole child, not just test scores.
- ESD's educational effectiveness survey is going out soon. It's a yearly survey they started last year. They surveyed students grade 4 and up, staff, and parents about how they're doing in their experience with the school system.
- ESD is doing work on antibullying initiatives in school. They are developing questions and processes to maximize engagement on Belonging in The Burg, which is tentatively planned for February.
- Still waiting on the report from the Department of Justice. They are anticipating getting it in the next month.

6. Subcommittee Reports

Goodloe and Cleary are writing proclamations and recognition days.

Backlund reported there have been two listening tours. They're working on notes and will share via the form. They also visited the Equity & Services Council (ESC) at CWU and are attempting to schedule a listening tour session with the groups represented by the ESC.

7. Commission Member Reports

Commissioner Cleary reported: Cleary participated in one of the focus groups hosted by the committee to update the 10-year Homeless and Affordable Housing Plan.

Commissioner Divine reported: The Ellensburg Bail Fund completed their videos from the grant and have them on the website. They also had a fundraiser that raised \$3,000.

Commissioner Carnell reported: The Trans Elders Conference in town was a necessary, needed, and successful event. Someone came from as far as Tillamook and it included local residents. Local businesses were engaged as partners and the Chamber of Commerce.

Commissioner Eliatamby-O'Brien reported: There was good turnout of community members at the Gallery One event as part of the Trans Elders Conference.

Goodloe reported: Goodloe, Carnell, and Backlund will be participating on a League of Women Voters panel on November 20 at 6 p.m. at the IOOF. Goodloe asked if the commission wants to change their name and proposed having the conversation at the December meeting.

8. Staff Report

None.

9. Public Comments

Chair Goodloe called for public comment. There was none.

Next Meeting December 10, 2024

Topics: Revisit Listening Tour Policy & Discussion on Name Change

Meeting adjourned at 3:57 p.m.

Nicole Klauss

Drafted: 11/13/2024

Approved: 12/10/2024