

CITY OF ELLENSBURG

Date of Meeting

Time of Meeting

Place of Meeting

Minutes of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

Commission Meeting

December 10, 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, Amber Hoefer, M. Eliatamby-O'Brien, Alex Mandujano, and Serena Turney.

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; Cyndi LaChappelle, Executive Assistant to the City Manager, and two members of the public via Zoom.

2. Approval of the Agenda

Commissioner Backlund moved to approve the agenda. Commissioner Cleary seconded the motion. There was no discussion **Motion approved 7-0.** (Commissioner Turney had not yet joined the meeting).

3. Approval of Minutes from November 12, 2024 and November 20, 2024 DEI Commission Meetings

Commissioner Carnell moved to approve the minutes from the November 12 and November 20, DEI Commission Meeting. Commissioner Backlund seconded the motion. There was no discussion. **Motion approved 7-0.** (Commissioner Turney had not yet joined the meeting).

4. New Business

A. Spending Plan Update

Klauss provided an update on the 2025 spending plan, which was approved minus the \$1,400 in funding for the listening tours/pizza klatch program. Council requested the DEI Commission go back before them with an updated proposal for the remaining \$1,400, not to include the pizza klatch program.

Commissioner Cleary made a motion to recommend \$400 from the \$1,400 go toward the Listening Tour budget in 2025. Commissioner Backlund seconded the motion. Chair Goodloe called for discussion.

During discussion, the Commission expressed interest in responding to the City Council's decision. Staff mentioned public comment was an option. The Commission discussed asking the City Council for more time to actually weigh in as an advisory commission and to correct inaccuracies that may have been presented. The

Commission asked about the process to call for a vote to be reconsidered. A subcommittee of Cleary, Hoefer, Eliatamby-O'Brien, and Carnell will work on a memo to the City Council. Commission members will reach out to City Councilmembers to request additional discussion. **Motion approved 8-0.**

Goodloe made a motion to put the \$1,000 into reserve until the Commission recommends allocating it to a specific activity. Commissioner Backlund seconded the motion. During discussion Commissioner Divine expressed interest in seeing more money be allocated toward the retreat when the funds are discussed in the new year. **Motion approved 8-0.**

B. Revisit Listening Tour Policy

There was some miscommunication about which copy of the policy to provide comment on. The Commission recommended moving this topic to the January meeting for additional time to provide feedback to Commissioner Backlund. Staff will send out the current version for review.

C. Discussion on Name Change

The topic was presented because some organizations are moving away from names with diversity, equity, and inclusion in them. The Commission discussed consideration of a name change. The Commission was in favor of keeping the current name because changing the name would not change what the Commission does. Some expressed that consistency is key and the Commission is already established. The Commission decided not to pursue further action on this topic.

5. Liaison Reports

CWU liaison Charlita Shelton reported on what some states and colleges are doing related to diversity efforts. CWU has a robust DEI speaker program in the new year.

6. Subcommittee Reports

Proclamation Subcommittee: No report.

Grant Subcommittee: A grant report from KEEN was attached to the agenda packet.

Listening Tour Subcommittee: There is a listening tour in January with CWU's Equity & Services Council on campus. Turney reported on the listening tour at Helen House, noting people mentioned feeling unsafe because they had been discriminated against. Some positives were that they are seeing more safe space stickers in the community. Staff will send all listening tour reports from 2024 to the subcommittee to put together an annual report that can be shared with City Council.

7. Commission Member Reports

Goodloe reported attending the League of Women Voters panel with Carnell and Backlund. The panel included KVH and CWU.

Commissioner Divine reported that the Farmers Market board meets the same time as the DEI Commission, so she will request an excused absence for an upcoming meeting so she can make the connection with the Farmers Market members.

8. Staff Report

Klauss reported that email notifications were sent to grant recipients to get their reports and receipts turned in before the end of the year.

9. Public Comments

Chair Goodloe called for public comment. One member of the public attending remotely, spoke regarding topics unrelated to Commission business and was muted.

Next Meeting January 14, 2025

Topics: Revisit Listening Tour Policy, ESD DOJ Update, Review Commission Work Plan, Annual Reminders, and Elect New Vice-Chair.

Meeting adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

Nicole Klauss

Drafted: 12/11/2024

Approved: 1/14/2025