

AGENDA DIVERSITY EQUITY & INCLUSION COMMISSION July 8, 2025

Hybrid Meeting In-person and via Zoom



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CITY OF ELLENSBURG
DIVERSITY EQUITY & INCLUSION COMMISSION AGENDA
Council Chambers
501 North Anderson Street
Ellensburg, WA 98926
And remotely via [Zoom](#)
Zoom Webinar ID: 897 3788 2563
Zoom Password: 717948
Tuesday, July 8, 2025
3:00 PM - Regular Meeting

1. **Call to Order and Roll Call of Members** Phil Backlund, Tylene Carnell, Kandee Cleary, Teresa Divine, M. Eliatamby-O'Brien, Amber Hoefer, Serena Turney, and Nancy Goodloe
 - 1.A Applicant Introduction - Deja Blanchard
2. **Approval of Agenda** (No Public Comment)
3. **Approval of Minutes from June 10, 2025**
 - 3.A Approval of Minutes from June 10, 2025
4. **New Business**
 - 4.A Study Session Follow-up
 - 4.B Discuss Opening Future Meetings With Reading Definitions
 - 4.C Comprehensive Plan Update
 - 4.D Retreat Planning
 - 4.E Block Party Idea - Teresa to Present
5. **Previous Meeting Motions & To-Do List Review**
 - 5.A Previous Meeting Motions & To-Do List Review
6. **Liaison Reports** Teresa Chanes and Katie Holm - Ellensburg Downtown Association ; Dr. Elvin Delgado and Ruben Cardenas, CWU; and Rhonda Schmidt- Ellensburg School District
7. **Subcommittee Reports**
8. **Commission Member Reports**
9. **Staff Report**
 - 9.A Staff Report
10. **Public Comments** Public Comment PUBLIC COMMENT RULES FOR ALL MEETING PARTICIPANTS 1. Each speaker's comments are to be limited to 3

MINUTES and must state their name and city of residence. 2. Speakers are cautioned not to engage in conduct that disrupts, disturbs or otherwise impedes the orderly conduct of the DEI Commission meeting. 3. Comments must be related to the commission's business or over which the Commission has control. 4. Speakers may not identify themselves as candidates for elective public office or make any statements which assist or discuss the campaign of a candidate for elective office or discuss or campaign for or against a ballot proposition.

11. Preview Next Meeting: August 12, 2025



For more information on the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Commission, contact Public Information Officer Nicole Klauss at 509-925-8657.

CITY OF ELLENSBURG

Date of Meeting

Time of Meeting

Place of Meeting

Minutes of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

Commission Meeting

June 10, 2025

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, and M. Eliatamby-O'Brien.

Commissioner Teresa Divine moved to approve an excused absence for Serena Turney. Commissioner Phil Backlund seconded the motion. There was no discussion. **Motion approved 5-0** (Commissioner Eliatamby-O'Brien had not yet joined the meeting).

Also present: Nicole Klauss, DEI Commission staff member; Rhonda Schmidt, Ellensburg School District liaison; Dr. Elvin Delgado, CWU Associate VP Faculty Relations, Equity, and Belonging (new liaison); Ruben Cardenas, CWU Associate Vice President, Student Engagement and Success (new liaison); Lily Frey, City Housing Program Manager (virtual); and 3 members of the public (2 in person and 1 via Zoom).

2. Approval of the Agenda

There was no discussion or motion.

3. Approval of Minutes from May 13, 2025 Commission Meeting

Commissioner Tylene Carnell moved to approve the minutes from the May 13, 2025 DEI Commission Meeting. Commissioner Kandee Cleary seconded the motion. There was no discussion. **Motion approved 6-0 (Eliatamby-O'Brien joined the meeting before the motion).**

4. New Business

A. Discussion study session with City Council on June 16, 2025, at 6 p.m.

The Commission reviewed the draft agenda for the study session. A subcommittee is meeting with the Mayor and City Manager on June 13 to finalize the agenda. Items may be cut to allow time for discussion as the study session is only 50 minutes.

Phil Backlund asked for a Zoom link to the study session. Commissioner Serena Turney previously indicated not being able to attend. All other commission members plan to be in attendance.

B. Discuss Opening Future Meetings With Reading Definitions

The Commission reviewed the updated definitions document provided by Carnell, and Divine suggested including language about socioeconomic status.

Commissioner Phil Backlund moved to postpone consideration of the document until additional changes are made. Commissioner Divine seconded the motion. During discussion comments were made about making adjustments to the language to make it more approachable for people who aren't familiar with the terms, as well as possibly including some language around identities. If socioeconomic status is added, other identities will need to be added. Suggestions should be emailed Carnell ahead of the July meeting. **Motion approved 6-0.**

5. Previous Meeting Motions And To-Do List Review

Goodloe reported on previous meeting motions:

- Council approved the DEI Commission's 2025 grant recommendations.
- Council will revisit their rules at an upcoming meeting.

Carnell reported on the 90-day goal list item Support Pride events every June: The event had 30 entrants and went well.

Carnell reported on the 90-day goal list item Multicultural Day at Unity Park: The Tri-Cities Diversity & Inclusion Council's multicultural event was canceled for this year due to anti-immigrant sentiment. Carnell reached out to the organizer to learn about their event for ideas as the subcommittee starts planning the Ellensburg event.

6. Liaison Reports

- New CWU liaisons Dr. Elvin Delgado and Ruben Cardenas were introduced.
- Ellensburg School District liaison Rhonda Schmidt had no report.

6. Subcommittee Reports

Klauss reported the Juneteenth event is being promoted and flyers are available.

7. Commission Member Reports

Commissioner Carnell reported:

- The Youth Summer Kick-Off had 18 organizations tabling and estimated 100 meals were served. The organizations involved plan to meet and connect throughout the year to continue sharing information about activities for youth.

Commissioner Hoefler reported:

- Attended the Ellensburg Police Department's Gang Awareness presentation which talked about how to approach kids being recruited.
- The Kittitas County Sheriff's Office put out a statement on June 5 about supporting federal law enforcement.

Commissioner Eliatamby-O'Brien reported:

- Other cities are having conversations about flags and proclamations during a time when people are feeling invisibility or lack of representation.

8. Staff Report

Staff reported:

- Touch-A-Truck will be Wednesday, June 18, 2025, at Rotary Park from 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
- Coffee With City Council is from 4-6 p.m. June 24 at the Library.
- The Library has youth and adult summer reading programs.
- The DEI Commission retreat date is October 17.

9. Public Comments

Chair Goodloe called for public comment.

William Coleman provided public comment, asking about the Juneteenth speakers.

Virtual comments were invited; none were made.

Next Meeting July 8, 2025

Topics: Retreat planning, Discuss Opening Future Meetings With Reading Definitions

Meeting adjourned at 3:46 p.m.

Nicole Klauss

Drafted: 6/11/2025

Approved:



Meeting Date: July 8, 2025
City of Ellensburg

Diversity Equity & Inclusion Commission Agenda Report

Agenda Subject: Discuss Opening Future Meetings With Reading Definitions
Submitted by:
Department: City Manager

Suggested Motion/Action:
Discuss proposal.

Background/Summary:

In previous meetings, the DEI Commission discussed a proposal to open meetings with a grounding. The current draft is below.

DEI Commission Meeting Grounding: What We Mean by DEI

Diversity: We recognize and celebrate the wide range of backgrounds, experiences, identities, and perspectives that make our city unique.

- For example: Unity Park’s grand opening included a variety of performances that reflected the cultural richness of our community.

Equity: We understand that not everyone starts from the same place, and acknowledge the unique needs of different groups and residents. We strive to identify and help remove barriers that prevent people from having full and complete access to opportunities and resources, so everyone has the ability and self-determination to thrive.

- For example: DEI grants have supported small, local businesses and events that center underrepresented voices.

Inclusion: We strive to create spaces where people from all walks of life feel welcomed, safe, respected, and invited to be an active part of the community.

- For example: Conversations with Parks & Rec have led to more inclusive restroom options for different families and visitors.

Accessibility: Everyone deserves the opportunity to take part in community life, so we work to address and remove barriers (ex. physical, language, social, and communicative) so everyone can fully take part in community life.

- For example: We’ve encouraged the city to use interpretation services and listening devices in meetings so more people can engage.

Belonging: We all want to feel like we’re part of where we live and make our home—seen, valued, respected—and that our contributions are welcome. Belonging is at the heart of a healthy community.

- For example: We've supported heritage month proclamations, Juneteenth celebrations, and partnerships that build bridges between groups.

Previous Council Action:

N/A

Analysis:

N/A

Financial Impact:

N/A

Budget Adjustment: No

Attachments:

None



Meeting Date: July 8, 2025
City of Ellensburg

Diversity Equity & Inclusion Commission Agenda Report

Agenda Subject: Comprehensive Plan Update
Submitted by:
Department: City Manager

Suggested Motion/Action:
No action requested. Providing information.

Background/Summary:
The City of Ellensburg has received 309 applications requesting the elimination of the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) chapter from our City’s Comprehensive Plan. Our Comprehensive Plan is a 20-year framework that guides our community's growth and development, and any proposed changes must involve thorough community input and adhere to a rigorous review process.

Currently, this request is part of the 2025 review cycle and is undergoing careful examination by the City’s Community Development Department. The next steps in this process will take place in July when the City Council will convene to discuss the matter further with the community at their meeting on July 21, 2025. Changes to the Comprehensive plan will require further review by the Planning Commission, other boards and commissions, public participation, State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) review, and Department of Commerce review which would take place later in 2025.

Public comment will be accepted on this agenda item at the July 21, 2025 City Council meeting. After Council makes a decision, we'll know more about next steps.

Previous Council Action:
N/A

Analysis:
N/A

Financial Impact:
N/A

Budget Adjustment: No

Attachments:
None



Meeting Date: July 8, 2025
City of Ellensburg

Diversity Equity & Inclusion Commission Agenda Report

Agenda Subject: Retreat Planning
Submitted by:
Department: City Manager

Suggested Motion/Action:
Discussion only.

Background/Summary:
The retreat is scheduled for 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Friday, October 17, 2025 at City Hall in the Council Chambers. We have a \$500 budget that can be used for supplies, refreshments, and a facilitator.

What do we need to accomplish and discuss at the retreat? What was helpful from the retreat last year? What wasn't helpful? Are there suggested facilitators? Please bring ideas to this discussion so we can start planning efforts.

Previous Council Action:
N/A

Analysis:
N/A

Financial Impact:
N/A

Budget Adjustment: No

Attachments:
None



Meeting Date: July 8, 2025
City of Ellensburg

Diversity Equity & Inclusion Commission Agenda Report

Agenda Subject: Previous Meeting Motions & To-Do List Review
Submitted by:
Department: City Manager

Suggested Motion/Action:
Review Previous Meeting Motions And To-Do List Review

Background/Summary:
Previous Meeting Motions:

- Commissioner Teresa Divine moved to approve an excused absence for Serena Turney. Commissioner Phil Backlund seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Motion approved 5-0 (Commissioner Eliatamby-O'Brien had not yet joined the meeting).
- Commissioner Tylene Carnell moved to approve the minutes from the May 13, 2025 DEI Commission Meeting. Commissioner Kandee Cleary seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Motion approved 6-0 (Eliatamby-O'Brien joined the meeting before the motion).
- Commissioner Phil Backlund moved to postpone consideration of the document until additional changes are made. Commissioner Divine seconded the motion. During discussion comments were made about making adjustments to the language to make it more approachable for people who aren't familiar with the terms, as well as possibly including some language around identities. If socioeconomic status is added, other identities will need to be added. Suggestions should be emailed Carnell ahead of the July meeting. Motion approved 6-0.

To-Do List Review (90-Day Goals - 8/11/2025)

- 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) Goodloe (lead)
- Multicultural Day at Unity Park Goodloe, Divine, Eliatamby-O'Brien (lead), & Carnell

Previous Council Action:
The Commission updated the 90-day goals at the May 13, 2025 meeting.

Analysis:

Are there any updates on these items?

Financial Impact:

N/A

Budget Adjustment: No

Attachments:

None



Meeting Date: July 8, 2025
City of Ellensburg

Diversity Equity & Inclusion Commission Agenda Report

Agenda Subject: Staff Report
Submitted by:
Department: City Manager

Suggested Motion/Action:
Listen to staff updates about City activities.

Background/Summary:
Upcoming City events that are free and open to all:

- Ellensburg Academy on Tuesday, July 29, 2025 at 6 p.m. at the Hal Holmes Community Center. Learn about City water - an overview of our drinking water system, affordable housing, and how to navigate the Library
- Summer Concerts in the Park at 6:30 p.m. July 31, August 7, August 14, and August 21 at Unity Park.
- Coffee With City Council from 9-11 a.m. August 13 at the Adult Activity Center.

Previous Council Action:
N/A

Analysis:
N/A

Financial Impact:
N/A

Budget Adjustment: No

Attachments:
None