

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 Hoefer 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: 7/8/2025