

CITY OF ELLENSBURG
Date of Meeting
Time of Meeting
Place of Meeting

Minutes of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion
Commission Meeting
August 12, 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.

Also present: Nicole Klauss, DEI Commission staff member; Stacey Henderson, Planning Manager; Dan Carlson, Community Development Director; Dr. Elvin Delgado, CWU Associate VP Faculty Relations, Equity, and Belonging (CWU liaison); and 2 members of the public (1 in person and 1 online).

Commissioner Kandee Cleary moved to approve an excused absence for Commissioner Serena Turney. Commissioner Phil Backlund seconded the motion.

Motion approved 5-0 (Commissioner Eliatamby-O'Brien had not yet arrived).

The Commission read the grounding statement.

2. Approval of the Agenda

Commissioner Phil Backlund moved to approve the agenda. Commissioner Kandee Cleary seconded the motion. There was no discussion. **Motion approved 5-0** (Commissioner Eliatamby-O'Brien had not yet arrived).

3. Approval of Minutes from July 8, 2025 Commission Meeting

Staff inadvertently left the minutes attachment off the agenda packet, so they will be added to the September meeting for approval.

4. New Business

A. Comprehensive Plan Update

Planning Manager Stacey Henderson provided an update on the Comprehensive Plan 2025 amendment process regarding 25-02. There are two Community Conversation Workshops open to everyone, and DEI Commission members can participate.

- Wednesday, August 20, 2025, from 6:00-8:00 p.m.; Hal Holmes Community Center, 209 N Ruby Street, Ellensburg; or
- Saturday, September 6, 2025, from 1:30-3:30 p.m.; Hal Holmes Community Center, 209 N Ruby Street, Ellensburg, WA

The Oct. 4 Common Ground Workshop will be open to nominated individuals from the earlier workshops.

Staff reviewed the formal adoption process and said the goal of the workshops is to keep the discussion focused on the Comprehensive Plan. Commissioner Hoefer asked about guardrails for harmful language and staff said facilitators are working on that.

Chair Goodloe asked when the DEI Commission might weigh in. Staff said they have a schedule to follow regarding the comprehensive plan process. It will have to go to Commerce for a 60-day Review on October 15, and there will concurrently be a SEPA public comment period. Goodloe suggested staff attend the Oct. 17 DEI Commission retreat to provide an update on the review of the draft that is being submitted to Commerce.

Commissioner Backlund asked if the DEI Commission will get a chance to engage with the City Council. Staff said that is up to the Council.

B. Discussion: Response To City Council Regarding Docketing?

The Commission discussed a response to City Council regarding the docketing of 25-02. Commissioner Hoefer asked if there is something the commission wants to formally ask Council or how the commission wants to show up in this process.

Commissioner members expressed it may be hard for people to continue showing up through this process when they have jobs, kids, transportation, and other things to consider. There was a suggestion to have a survey or some way for people who can't attend the workshops or meetings to provide their feedback.

Goodloe said she hopes it will come back to the Commission because if it were a parks issue, the Parks Commission would likely weigh in.

Commissioner Carnell asked what lens the Planning Commission will use when considering the recommendations.

Commissioner Divine made a motion to ask for another study session with City Council after the report from the Community Conversation Workshops is available.

Commissioner Cleary seconded the motion. During discussion, there was a request to get a written version of the Comprehensive Plan timeline and staff recommended making the request for a study session sooner than later as the Council schedule gets booked. **Motion approved 6-0** (Eliatamby-O'Brien had joined the meeting by this point).

C. Retreat Planning

Staff provided an update on the Oct. 17 retreat and asked if any members of the commission would be willing to help facilitate pieces of the agenda. Commissioner Cleary, Eliatamby-O'Brien, Hoefer, and Chair Goodloe indicated they would be interested in collaborative facilitation.

Staff will ask Community Development if they will be available to participate in the retreat to provide an update on the Community Conversation Workshops.

5. Previous Meeting Motions And To-Do List Review

The Commission reviewed the previous meeting motions and agreed to move the two outstanding items from the 90-day list over to the next 90-days since they have been focusing energy elsewhere. The new 90-day deadline is November 10, 2025.

6. Liaison Reports

There were no reports from liaisons.

7. Subcommittee Reports

The listening tours are on hold while the Commission works through other issues.

Goodloe visited briefly with Rhonda Schmidt, ESD liaison, and it sounds like their conversation with students will deviate from the World Café model.

8. Commission Member Reports

Commissioner Backlund reported:

- The Wall that Heals will be in Ellensburg (Sept. 4-7) and needs volunteers.
- People do not know what the DEI Commission does, so he put together an informal sheet with talking points. That will be shared with the Commission.

Commissioner Cleary reported Shakespeare in the Park is Aug. 12, 13, and 15.

Commissioner Eliatamby-O'Brien reported attending the Harmonize unveiling and said there is misinformation about funding.

9. Staff Report

Staff reported:

- The Adult Activity Center sponsors the "Senior Lounge" at the Kittitas County Fair, and volunteers are needed.
- Summer Concerts in the Park at 6:30 p.m. August 14 & 21 at Unity Park
- Coffee with City Council from 9-11 a.m. August 13 at the Adult Activity Center
- Ellensburg Jr. Rodeo Parade is August 16.
- Accessory Dwelling Unity Info Session on August 19 from 6-8 p.m. at Hal Holmes Community Center. The program will include brief presentations on the phases of planning, financing, and constructing and managing an ADU followed by Q&A.
- City Tree Survey is open until August 31 at www.ellensburgwa.gov/treesurvey.
- Ellensburg Academy on September 24 at 6 p.m. at Hal Holmes Community Center.
- Poet Laureate application period is open. Submissions due by Sept. 15

10. Public Comments

Chair Goodloe called for public comment.

William Coleman, Kittitas, provided public comment.

11. Preview Next Meeting September 9, 2025

- Approval of minutes from July 8 & August 12 meetings

- Additional retreat discussion

Meeting adjourned at 4:07 p.m.

Nicole Klauss

Drafted: 8/13/2025

Approved: 9/9/2025