

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

Minutes of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion
Commission Meeting
September 9, 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, Kandee Cleary, Nancy Goodloe, Amber Hoefler, M. Eliatamby-O'Brien, and Serena Turney.

Also present: Nicole Klauss, DEI Commission staff member; Ruben Cardenas, CWU Associate Vice President liaison; and 4 members of the public (2 in person and 2 online).

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

Motion approved 5-0

The Commission read the grounding statement.

2. Approval of the Agenda

Commissioner Kandee Cleary moved to approve the agenda. Commissioner Eliatamby-O'Brien seconded the motion. There was no discussion. **Motion approved 5-0.**

3. Approval of Minutes from July 8, 2025 and August 12, 2025 Commission Meetings

Commissioner Kandee Cleary moved to approve the meeting minutes from the July 8, 2025 and August 12, 2025 DEI Commission. Commissioner Hoefler seconded the motion. There was no discussion. **Motion approved 5-0.**

4. New Business

A. Select Representative To Review City Staff 1st Comp Plan Update Based On 10/4 Workshop Feedback

Chair Goodloe asked if anyone would be working with City staff ahead of the 10/17 retreat to review the results from the 10/4 Common Ground Workshop to help guide the retreat conversation.

Commissioner Cleary nominated Commissioner Hoefler and Commissioner Eliatamby-O'Brien as the representatives to work with City staff on reviewing the results of the 10/4 Common Ground Workshop. Commissioner Serena Turney seconded the motion. There was no discussion. **Motion approved 5-0.**

B. Retreat Planning

The Commission reviewed the October 17 retreat agenda. No public comment and no formal action will be taken at the retreat.

Commissioner Backlund volunteered to facilitate the morning icebreaker activity. Commissioner Serena Turney volunteered to help if needed.

Staff requested a supply list if there are specific items that are required.

5. Previous Meeting Motions And To-Do List Review

The Commission reviewed the previous meeting motions and provided updates.

Staff noted that the request for a study session was sent to the City Manager and Mayor for consideration; staff has not heard back.

Commissioner Eliatamby-O'Brien said there is a unity event happening in Ellensburg this fall, so there may be a way to connect with vendors at this event to start building relationships for the multicultural event. With the resignation of Divine from the commission, the subcommittee is looking for another volunteer to aid in planning efforts. The commission recommended pushing the event to spring. This item has been moved off the 90-day to-do list.

Commissioner Eliatamby-O'Brien nominated Commissioner Cleary to help Goodloe with the 90-day goal item of putting data in a document for review.

6. Liaison Reports

CWU liaison Ruben Cardenas reported CWU is ramping up for fall quarter, which starts September 25, and is looking for ways to invite the community to attend campus events. Commission members suggested community calendars, flyer locations, and emailing info to City staff to share with Council and commission members. The multicultural center opening on CWU's campus will have a soft opening this year. The Kittitas County Veterans Program will be doing a resource fair on campus in 2026 for veterans.

7. Subcommittee Reports

None.

8. Commission Member Reports

Chair Goodloe reported the Community Conversation on Sept. 6 was well attended and had new faces on both sides.

Commissioner Backlund reported it was nice to have The Wall That Heals in Ellensburg and over 400 middle school and high school students visited.

9. Staff Report

Staff reported:

- Coffee With City Council is Sept.10 from 4-6p.m. at the Ellensburg Public Library with Councilmembers Elliott and Beauchamp.
- Poet Laureate application period is open. Submissions due by September 15.
- Public Input workshop for the Clean Energy Implementation Plan is September 23 from 5:30-7 p.m.at City Hall.
- Ellensburg Academy on September 24 at 6 p.m. at Hal Holmes Community Center.
- Transit Survey closes September 26: www.ellensburgwa.gov/transitsurvey
- Common Ground Workshop is October 4, 2025.
- Parks, Recreation, Open Space, and Sustainable Funding Plan survey and information at www.ellensburgwa.gov/prosplan.

10. Public Comments

Chair Goodloe called for public comment.

William Coleman, Kittitas, provided public comment. There was no online comment.

11. Preview Next Meeting October 14, 2025

- The October 14 meeting has been cancelled due to lack of agenda items and the retreat being the same week.

Meeting adjourned at 3:41 p.m.

Nicole Klauss

Drafted: 9/9/2025

Approved: 11/11/2025