

**CITY OF ELLENSBURG**

**Date of Meeting**

**Time of Meeting**

**Place of Meeting**

**Minutes of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion**

**Commission Retreat**

**October 17, 2025**

**8:00 AM – 2:00 PM**

**Council Chambers**

Present: Commission members Phil Backlund, Kandee Cleary, Nancy Goodloe, Amber Hofer, M. Elitamby-O'Brien, Tylene Carnell, Serena Turney; DEI Commission staff member Nicole Klauss; City Planning Manager Stacey Henderson; Community Development Director Dan Carlson; Rhonda Schmidt, Ellensburg School District liaison; and two members of the public.

**1. ICEBREAKER**

Commissioner Phil Backlund led icebreaker activities.

**2. 2025 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AMENDMENT 25-02 UPDATE AND NEXT STEPS**

City Planning Manager Stacey Henderson and Community Development Director Dan Carlson provided an update on the 2025 Comprehensive Plan Amendment 25-02 process. They reviewed the background, results of the Common Ground Workshop, and six options that will be brought forward to the City Council on October 20, 2025.

Discussion around feasibility of a combination of options and wording of revise versus repeal and replace; reviewing the role of City government in relation to these chapters; public comment at the upcoming City Council meeting; questions about virtual comments between Community Conversations and Common Ground Workshop; other parts of the Comprehensive Plan 2026 update that the DEI Commission might be interested in such as affordable housing; language changes to clarify terminology since there were agreements from the workshop; metrics and annual reports compared to other City boards and commissions; doing a better job of showing what the DEI Commission does every year; challenges with Commerce timelines; Planning Commission will have to review something in November (that is an opportunity for the DEI Commission to provide written or verbal feedback) and Council will have to review something in December; commission interest in helping write chapter updates if work moves into 2026; measurability of goals; how the commission is able to provide Council with an opinion; and questions about the cost of the process.

The Commission discussed providing feedback on the options to City Council.

### **3. REVIEW OF COUNCIL'S STRATEGIC VISION & PRIORITIES**

Chair Nancy Goodloe reviewed the City Council's strategic vision and priorities, and the commission discussed the topics.

### **4. WORKSHOP/GOALS DISCUSSION**

The Commission talked through updating their goals list but did not finish the discussion. It will be added to a future commission agenda.

### **5. BUDGET DISCUSSION**

The Commission ran out of time to have this discussion.

### **6. SPECIAL PLANNING/PROJECTS**

**Work With Liaisons:** Ellensburg School District liaison Rhonda Schmidt provided an update on the changes ESD has made in relation to the previous DOJ investigation (e.g. ESD updated website to make form to report complaints of harassment more visible) as well as highlights such as the new heritage language elementary program and Spanish literacy with students. The Ellensburg School District was not able to do a Belonging In The Burg this year. The group discussed what kind of information the commission would like to see from the school district. The commission is interested in seeing uptick of trends in schools and areas where there are opportunities for collaboration.

Retreat adjourned at 2 p.m.

Nicole Klauss

**Drafted: 10/17/2025**

**Approved: 11/11/2025**