

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

Minutes of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion
Special Commission Meeting
November 18, 2025
4:00 PM
Council Chambers & Zoom

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Chair Nancy Goodloe called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

Roll Call Present: Phil Backlund, Kandee Cleary, Nancy Goodloe, Amber Hoefler, and M. Eliatamby-O'Brien.

Also present: Nicole Klauss, assigned staff member to the commission; Ruben Cardenas, CWU liaison; Christopher Horner, City Attorney; Heidi Behrends Cerniwey, City Manager; and 7 members of the public, (4 were online).

2. Approval of the Agenda

Commission member Kandee Cleary moved to approve the agenda. Commission member Hoefler seconded the motion. There was no discussion. **Motion approved 4-0.**

3. New Business

The Commission discussed an alternate draft to Chapter 9 of the City's comprehensive plan that was written by a commission subcommittee (of less than quorum). Discussion included comments that the draft approved by Planning Commission and written by staff included substantial changes that removed the intention of the chapter and that the chapter could be rewritten to remove the terms "diversity, equity and inclusion" without losing the meaning behind the chapter. Commission member said the draft captures discussion from the common ground workshop. Commission members suggested minor changes to the draft. Commission members asked questions about the process.

Commission members indicated an interest in writing a letter to accompany the draft chapter framing why the DEI Commission is proposing a new draft, mentioning what was lost from the community conversations, and why it is an intermediate option as work continues with the Comprehensive Plan 2026 update.

Commission member Phil Backlund made a motion to accept the DEI Commission's Chapter 9 draft as written with changes agreed upon and send it to the City Council to be accompanied by a letter explaining the rationale for the draft. Commission member M. Eliatamby-O'Brien seconded the motion. **Motion approved 4-0.**

M. Eliatamby-O'Brien and Amber Hoefler will write the letter will present the draft as a communication item at the December 1 City Council meeting and provide it as comment during a public hearing. Commission members will provide staff with the letter by end of day Monday, November 24 to get it on the City Council agenda for December 1.

Meeting adjourned at 4:48 p.m.

Drafted by: Nicole Klauss, assigned staff member to the DEI Commission

Drafted: 11/19/2025

Approved: 12/9/2025