

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

Minutes of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion
Commission Meeting
December 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, and Amber Hoefler, M. Eliatamby-O'Brien.

Also present: Nicole Klauss, staff member assigned to the DEI Commission; Heidi Behrends Cerniwey, City Manager; Ruben Cardenas, CWU Associate Vice President liaison; Cody Natland, applicant; Ramona Bryant, League of Women Voters of Kittitas County; and 5 members of the public (3 in person and 2 online).

Chair Goodloe provided comments about former DEI Commission member Tylene Carnell, who passed away in November.

The Commission read the grounding statement.

Applicant Cody Natland provided an introduction. Another applicant plans to attend the January meeting. The third applicant was also invited to the December meeting but did not reply.

2. Approval of the Agenda

Commissioner Backlund moved to approve the agenda. Commissioner Eliatamby-O'Brien seconded the motion. There was no discussion. **Motion approved 4-0.**

3. Approval of Commission Minutes from November 11 & November 18, 2025 Meetings

Commissioner Backlund moved to approve the meeting minutes from the November 11 and November 18, 2025 DEI Commission meetings. Commissioner Cleary seconded the motion. There was no discussion. **Motion approved 4-0.**

4. New Business

A. Commission members confirmed availability to attend a joint study session with the Ellensburg City Council on Tuesday, January 20.

B. Commissioner Backlund made a motion to approve the 2025 Annual Report and forward it to the Ellensburg City Council. Commissioner Hoefler seconded the motion.

During discussion Goodloe suggested capitalizing Community Conversations, adding language about the workshop attendance, and clarifying language in the last bullet point of the Policy, Advisory and Government Engagement section.

Backlund made a motion to amend the main motion to accept the changes. Hoefer seconded the motion. **Motion approved 4-0.**

Eliatamby-O'Brien made a motion to further amend the document to include a bullet that acknowledges providing in advisory capacity feedback to DEI Commission liaisons under the community and outreach section. Hoefer seconded the motion. **Motion approved 4-0.**

The Commission then voted on the amended document through the main motion. **Motion approved 4-0.**

C. Commissioner Hoefer moved to approve \$150 to purchase name plates. Commissioner Backlund seconded the motion. There was no discussion. **Motion approved 4-0.**

D. Staff discussed the Juneteenth 2026 event and challenges with finding an organization to lead the efforts. Goodloe and Backlund will reach out to the 2025 Juneteenth subcommittee members. Eliatamby-O'Brien has a meeting at CWU to discuss a multicultural event and will ask about Juneteenth. CWU liaison Ruben Cardenas suggested reaching out to the Multicultural Center on campus.

E. Chair Goodloe provided a brief update on the Council's discussion of Chapter 9 and the direction that was taken at the December 1 City Council meeting. Staff encouraged DEI Commission members to attend the Dec. 15 City Council meeting to provide public comment.

5. Previous Meeting Motions

The Commission reviewed the previous meeting motions.

6. Liaison Reports

CWU liaison Ruben Cardenas reported on CWU's Capacity Building for Shared Equity Leadership and April 18 Veterans Resource Fair in the CWU Student Union and Recreation Center.

7. Subcommittee Reports

None.

8. Commission Member Reports

Commission members expressed gratitude for other commission members and the work they have been doing.

9. Staff Report

None.

10. Public Comments

Chair Goodloe called for public comment.

- Cari Vickers provided public comment.
- William Coleman provided public comment.

11. Preview Next Meeting January 13, 2026

Meeting adjourned at 3:51 p.m.

Nicole Klauss, staff member assigned to the DEI Commission

Drafted: 12/9/25

Approved: 1/13/26