

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

**Minutes of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion**  
**Commission Meeting**  
**January 13, 2026**  
**3:00 PM**  
**Council Chambers & Zoom**

### **1. Call to Order and Roll Call**

Chair Nancy Goodloe called the meeting to order at 3:16 p.m.

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

Also present: Nicole Klauss, staff member assigned to the DEI Commission; Heidi Behrends Cerniwey, City Manager; Dan Carlson, Community Development Director; Stacey Henderson, Planning Manager; Ruben Cardenas, CWU Associate Vice President liaison; Ramona Bryant, League of Women Voters of Kittitas County; applicant Cody Natland; applicant Jeffrey St. John; applicant Judd Ike Grey; applicant Amber Darting; 3 members of the public (2 in person and 1 online).

Applicants Amber Darting, Jeffrey St. John, and Judd Ike Grey provided introductions. The other applicant provided an introduction at the previous meeting.

### **2. Approval of the Agenda**

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

### **3. Approval of Commission Minutes from December 9, 2025 Meeting**

Commissioner Backlund moved to approve the meeting minutes from the December 9, 2025 DEI Commission meeting. Commissioner Cleary seconded the motion. There was no discussion. **Motion approved 4-0.**

### **4. New Business**

A. The Commission received an overview of the Comprehensive Plan Periodic Update from Community Development staff member Stacey Henderson. Commissioner Cleary volunteered to act as the DEI Commission liaison to consult on the climate chapter. Commissioner Backlund volunteered to act as the DEI Commission liaison to consult on the housing chapter.

B. Chair Goodloe led a discussion about proclamations. The proclamations subcommittee will be making the proclamations shorter and trying to get final versions to staff earlier. Goodloe is waiting for direction from the Mayor about whether they will be read at Council meetings again.

C. Staff requested the Commission move the February DEI Commission to Tuesday, February 3 due to a quorum issue. Commissioners all indicated they could be present on the new date. Staff will update City calendars.

D. Chair Goodloe provided a brief overview of the upcoming Joint Study Session With City Council on Tuesday, January 20. There will be a brief update from City staff on Chapter 1.88 and the majority of the time will be spent looking at DEI Commission activities so the City Council can provide some direction on what they want to see from the Commission. Staff shared a list of items that will be printed on large posters for the activity. Commissioner Hoefer asked for copies of the DEI Commission's annual report be available for Councilmembers.

### **5. Liaison Reports**

CWU liaison Ruben Cardenas reported:

- There is a Peace March on January 21 at noon on campus. It is open to everyone and will start at the Wildcat statue outside of the Student Union and Recreation Center (SURC).
- There is a MLK remembrance program on January 21 at 6 p.m. in the SURC Theatre.
- CWU SLICE is doing service in the community all week for MLK Week of Service.
- Jennifer King will be doing a presentation at CWU on Feb. 5. King was the first black female coach in NFL history.

### **6. Subcommittee Reports**

Grant Subcommittee: Staff reported the five DEI grant recipients submitted their reports on their project and reimbursement requests. Reports were included in the packet.

### **7. Commission Member Reports**

Commissioner Hoefer attended a meeting with City staff and Commissioner Eliatamby-O'Brien regarding the Comprehensive Plan.

Chair Goodloe will be serving as a Council liaison to the Parks and Recreation Commission this year.

Commissioner Eliatamby-O'Brien has been in contact with the Multicultural Center at CWU discussing a possible event for this year. Eliatamby-O'Brien also brought up the idea of a block party, which was previously suggested by Tylene Carnell.

### **8. Staff Report**

Staff Reported:

- Blank name plate stands were ordered for all commissioners or Councilmembers to use. This was not taken from the Commission's budget.
- The Library's 116<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration is on January 20.
- The Library offers Friday Tech Time for technology help. Contact the reference desk.

- Free Collage Club Collaborative Workshop on January 27.
- Reminder City facilities are closed on January 19 for MLK Jr. Day.

### **9. Public Comments**

Chair Goodloe called for public comment.

- William Coleman provided public comment.

### **10. Adjourn**

Meeting adjourned at 4:07 p.m.

Nicole Klauss, staff member assigned to the DEI Commission

**Drafted: 1/14/26**

**Approved: 2/3/26**