

CITY OF ELLENSBURG

Date of Meeting

Time of Meeting

Place of Meeting

Minutes of Access, Advocacy, Equity, &

Engagement Commission Meeting

April 14, 2026

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, Amber Darting, Nancy Goodloe, Judd Grey, Amber Hoefler, Cody Natland, and M. Eliatamby-O'Brien.

Also present: Nicole Klauss, staff member assigned to the AAEE Commission; Stacey Henderson, Planning Manager; Lily Frey, Housing Program Manager; Heidi Behrends Cerniwey, City Manager; Eliann Carr, Crime & Intelligence Analyst at EPD; Kelle Vandenberg, Arts & Economic Development Manager; Rhonda Schmidt, Ellensburg School District liaison; Elvin Delgado, Interim Associate Vice President for Faculty Success at Central Washington University; Ramona Bryant, League of Women Voters of Kittitas County; and 7 members of the public.

Chair Goodloe allowed applicants Kathryn Martell and Matthew Stalder to provide an introduction.

2. Approval of the Agenda

Commissioner Judd Grey moved to approve the agenda. Commissioner Kandee Cleary seconded the motion. There was no discussion. **Motion approved 7-0.**

3. Public Comment

Chair Goodloe called for public comment. There was no public comment.

4. Approval of Commission Minutes from March 10, 2026 Meeting

Commissioner Phil Backlund moved to approve the meeting minutes from the March 10, 2026 DEI Commission meeting. Commissioner Cody Natland seconded the motion. There was no discussion. **Motion approved 7-0.**

5. New Business

A. Arts & Economic Development Manager Kelle Vandenberg presented on the Kittitas County America 250 Celebration and provided a funding request. Commissioner Phil Backlund made a motion to spend \$1,500 on the America 250 event and develop a plan for the Commission's remaining \$8,500. Commissioner Natland seconded the motion. During discussion, commission members commented on the challenge of budgeting the money for the event without knowing the work plan for the year. **Motion failed 5-2.**

B. Housing Program Manager Lily Frey reported on the Racially Disparate Impacts memo that is part of the Comprehensive Plan Periodic Update. William Coleman provided public comment.

C. Eliann Carr and Heidi Behrends Cerniwey reported on the Community Survey that is in development and listened to feedback from the commission.

D. Staff reported on the Commission name change.

6. Liaison Reports

Due to time, Rhonda Schmidt's school district update will be moved to May. CWU did not have any updates.

7. Subcommittee Reports

Staff provided a report on responsibility of the Proclamation Subcommittee.

8. Commission Member Reports

There were no commission member reports.

9. Staff Report

Staff reported on City activities including Arbor Day free tree program, Comprehensive Plan mini polls, voting for the Community Selected Historic Preservation Award, National Poetry Month, Bike Month events, and Recycling Event.

10. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 4:36 p.m.

Drafted by Nicole Klauss, staff member assigned to the AAEE Commission

Drafted: 4/15/26

Approved: 5/12/26