

AGENDA ACCESS, ADVOCACY, EQUITY & ENGAGEMENT COMMISSION

August 11, 2026

Hybrid Meeting In-person and via Zoom



Accessibility

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Rules for Public Comment

Any person engaging in conduct that disrupts, disturbs, or otherwise impedes the orderly conduct of the meeting including but not limited to:

1. Unduly repetitive or irrelevant remarks;
2. Use of intimidating, threatening, or abusive language;
3. disobedience of an order to be seated or to discontinue further comments;
4. and/or engaging in violent behavior,

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will be deemed out of order and may be removed from the meeting and/or have his or her virtual microphone muted.

CITY OF ELLENSBURG
ACCESS, ADVOCACY, EQUITY & ENGAGEMENT COMMISSION AGENDA
Council Chambers
501 North Anderson Street
Ellensburg, WA 98926
And remotely via [Zoom](#)
Zoom Webinar ID: 860 4488 5223
Zoom Passcode: 960657
Tuesday, August 11, 2026
3:00 PM - Regular Meeting

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

1.A Phil Backlund, Amber Darting, M. Eliatamby-O'Brien, Nancy Goodloe, Kathryn Martell, Lorena Medina-Dirksen, Cody Natland

2. Approval of Agenda (No Public Comment)

3. Public Comment PUBLIC COMMENT RULES FOR ALL MEETING PARTICIPANTS

1. Each speaker's comments are to be limited to 3 MINUTES and must state their name and city of residence. 2. Speakers are cautioned not to engage in conduct that disrupts, disturbs or otherwise impedes the orderly conduct of the AAEE Commission meeting. 3. Comments must be related to the commission's business or over which the Commission has control. 4. Speakers may not identify themselves as candidates for elective public office or make any statements which assist or discuss the campaign of a candidate for elective office or discuss or campaign for or against a ballot proposition.

4. Approval of Minutes

4.A Approval of AAEE Commission Meeting Minutes from July 14, 2026

5. New Business

5.A Comprehensive Plan Advisory Update (Public Comment Opportunity)

5.B Work Plan Discussion

5.C Appointment of Commission Vice Chair

5.D Appointment of Proclamation Review Subcommittee Member

5.E Appointment of Grants Subcommittee Member

6. Subcommittee Business

7. Liaison Reports Dr. Elvin Delgado and Ruben Cardenas - CWU; and Rhonda Schmidt - Ellensburg School District

8. Staff Report

8.A Staff Report

9. **Adjournment** Next Meeting: September 8, 2026 at 3 p.m. in Council Chambers



For more information on the Access, Advocacy, Equity, and Engagement Commission contact
AAEECommission@ellensburgwa.gov

CITY OF ELLENSBURG

Date of Meeting

Time of Meeting

Place of Meeting

**Minutes of Access, Advocacy, Equity, &
Engagement (AAEE) Commission Meeting**

July 14, 2026

5:00 PM

Council Chambers & Zoom

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Chair Goodloe called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Roll Call Present: Phil Backlund, Amber Darting, Nancy Goodloe, Judd Grey, Kathryn Martell, Lorena Medina-Dirksen, and Cody Natland.

Also present: Nicole Klauss, staff member assigned to the AAEE Commission; Heidi Behrends Cerniwey, City Manager; Lisa Young, HR Director; Gretchen Delaford, Executive Assistant; Stacey Henderson, Planning Manager; Ruben Cardenas, CWU Associate Vice President liaison; and 2 members of the public.

Commissioner Backlund moved to approve an excused absence for M. Eliatamby-O'Brien. Commissioner Grey seconded the motion. There was no discussion.

Motion approved 6-0.

2. Approval of the Agenda

Commissioner Grey moved to approve the agenda. Commissioner Backlund seconded the motion. There was no discussion. **Motion approved 6-0.**

3. Public Comment

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

4. Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Martell moved to approve the meeting minutes from the June 9 AAEE Commission meeting. Commissioner Grey seconded the motion. There was no discussion. **Motion approved 6-0.**

5. New Business

A. Planning Manager Stacey Henderson reported on the current draft of Comprehensive Plan, and explained where the current content in Chapter 9 has been moved to proposed Chapter 2 and throughout the plan. The agenda packet included the proposed draft Chapter 2: Our Community: Access, Engagement, and Belonging. The draft will not be included at the July 22 Comprehensive Plan Open House as it's not fully ready. People can comment on the current draft Comprehensive Plan chapters available online at www.ellensburgwa.gov/ellensburg2046. Staff will send the link out to commission members.

Commission members provided feedback on Chapter 2 content. The Commission appointed four members (Backlund, Martell, Medina-Dirksen, and Goodloe) to be part of

a subcommittee with a cross-section of boards and commissions that meets with staff to review the goals and policies of Chapter 2 in more depth. Staff will schedule this meeting.

B. Preliminary Discussion of the 2026 Workplan

Chair Goodloe provided some updates to the 2026 workplan timelines and asked commissioners to review the document ahead of the August meeting when assignments will be made.

There was a question about whether there would be a retreat this year. Staff said historically the retreat has been used to create a workplan and since the commission already has a work plan, it might be beneficial to have a retreat early next year. Goodloe said the conversation could be revisited in the future.

6. Liaison Reports

Ruben Cardenas reported on the CWU Supervisor Summit and reported meeting with Commissioners Backlund and Martell and CWU representatives.

7. Subcommittee Reports

The Grants Subcommittee reported on the new changes and timeline for the 2026 AAEE Commission Grant Application. Commissioner Grey made a motion to approve the 2026 AAEE Commission Grant Application. Commissioner Backlund seconded the motion. **Motion approved 6-0.**

8. Commission Representative Reports

There was no time for commission representative reports.

9. Staff Report

There was no time for the staff report.

10. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 6:29 p.m.

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

Drafted: 7/15/26

Approved:

AAEE Commission 2026 Work Plan Summarized

For the remainder of 2026, the AAEE Commission will focus on:

- Develop Spending Plan for 2026 (Requires Council Approval)
- Develop 2027 funding and policy for ongoing AAEE grants to establish a sustainable funding source and align timelines with other City grant programs. Forward to Council for consideration. (Urgent)
- Review and participate in the Comprehensive Plan Periodic Update (Chapter 9 and others) – Open House in July 2026
- Develop guidance on reaching marginalized groups for outreach for City-sponsored community events (to incorporate in AAEE grants)
- Support and participate in City-sponsored community events that are meant to bring the community together
- Participate in civic education opportunities
- Develop metrics and other standards to measure impact of committee work over time (Subcommittee/Staff)

Action Item	Responsible Party	Due Date
Continue Ongoing -Proclamations/Days of Recognition	Subcommittee	Ongoing
2026 Spending Plan	Commission or Subcommittee/Staff Support	June 2026 (approved 6/1/26) – remaining \$3,300 unallocated
Grant Policy -update with AAEE framework for 2026 and future years -develop assessment tool to measure participant outcomes -establish 2027 process and sustainable funding request	Subcommittee/Staff Support	June/July 2026
Administrative -Review Commission Roles -Update interview questions for membership	Commission or Subcommittee/Staff Support	July 2026
Comp Plan Elements Periodic update; Chapter	Commission or Subcommittee/Staff Support	July 2026 – Open House December 2026 - Complete

9; Housing; Economic Development, etc. -Consultation -Open House -Additional Outreach -Community Conversation		
Community Events -Juneteenth -Fourth of July/Independence Day/America 250 -And others partnership opportunities	Commission or Subcommittee/Staff Support	September 2026
Outreach Guidance -workshops/event planning and outreach strategies -Cultivate access points to distribute information to marginalized and micro-communities -Develop workshops to educate staff on access/trust building for all groups in community (all services)	Subcommittee/Staff	December 2026
Build Metrics and Tools to measure outcomes and impact of Commission -engagement actions -grant activities -events	Subcommittee and Staff	December 2026
Access to Civic Education (Prepare item for Constitution Day or Ellensburg Academy)	Subcommittee	March 2027



Meeting Date: August 11, 2026

**City of Ellensburg
Access, Advocacy, Equity & Engagement Commission
Agenda Report**

Agenda Subject: Staff Report
Submitted by:
Department: City Manager

Suggested Motion/Action:

Listen to staff updates.

Background/Summary:

Upcoming City events and activities:

- Free Concerts in the Park from 6:30-8 p.m. at North Alder St. Park on August 13 (Rodeo City Bluegrass Concern) and August 20 (Loco Motion).
- The City is cohosting an ADU Homeowner Panel from 6-7:30 p.m. on August 18 at Hal Holmes Community Center. Listen to brief presentations on recent Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) projects, learn from the homeowners and developers who constructed them, and ask your ADU questions.
- The 8-block Jr. Rodeo Parade is set for August 22. Lineup for this free event starts at 9:30 a.m. at the Ellensburg Skate Park. Register online by August 19 or in person at the event: https://eburgrec.activityreg.com/selectactivity_t2.wcs
- The Ellensburg Police Department is hosting Cop on Top on Thursday, August 27 at Fred Meyer from 12-6 p.m. Officers will be on top of the Fred Meyer building collecting donations for Special Olympics and local athletes, and they'll also be handing down backpacks filled with school supplies to children while supplies last.
- The AAEE Commission grant application period closes August 31, 2026.
- Nominations are open for the 2026 Arts Advocate and Arts Treasure Awards through August 31, 2026.
- The City of Ellensburg is accepting applications for Council-funded Grant Programs and Arts Commission Grants for work to be completed in 2027. Each program has a specific purpose, application, and set of requirements. The application deadline is 5 p.m. On Monday, August 31, 2026. Find grant information at www.ellensburgwa.gov/grants.
- The free Summer Reading Program is in progress at the Library. Stop by to pick up a reading log and learn about free activities for adults and youth. Reading logs due by Labor Day weekend.
- City offices and facilities will be closed on Monday, September 7 for the Labor Day holiday.

Previous Council Action:

Analysis:

Financial Impact:

Budget Adjustment: No

Attachments:

None