

CITY OF ELLENSBURG

Date of Meeting

Time of Meeting

Place of Meeting

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

June 9, 2026

3:00 PM

Council Chambers & Zoom

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Chair Goodloe called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. Goodloe welcomed and introduced the two new commission members. Kandee Cleary and Amber Hoefer did not seek reappointment and their terms expired in May.

Roll Call Present: Phil Backlund, Amber Darting, M. Eliatamby-O'Brien, 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; Dan Carlson, Community Development Director; Mark Rud, Associate Planner; Ruben Cardenas, CWU Associate Vice President liaison; and 2 members of the public.

2. Approval of the Agenda

Commissioner Backlund moved to approve the agenda. Commissioner Natland seconded the motion. There was no discussion. **Motion approved 6-0 (Commissioner Grey had not yet arrived).**

3. Public Comment

Chair Goodloe called for public comment. William Coleman provided public comment.

4. Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Darting moved to approve the meeting minutes from the May 12 and May 19 AAEE Commission meetings. Commissioner Backlund seconded the motion. There was no discussion. **Motion approved 6-0 (Commissioner Grey had not yet arrived).**

5. New Business

A. Associate Planner Mark Rud presented on the current draft of Comprehensive Plan Chapter 2. Community Character and Voices. Commission members provided feedback. William Coleman provided public comment.

B. City Manager Heidi Behrends Cerniwey presented on the commission's draft work plan. Commissioner Backlund made a motion to approve the work plan as summarized in the two pages for 2026. Commissioner Martell seconded the motion. During discussion, Commissioner Grey requested that staff rearrange the work plan in chronological order of due date. **Motion approved 7-0.**

C. Chair Goodloe introduced the draft Council commitment resolution that City Council will consider at the June 15 meeting and invited commission members to attend the meeting.

6. Liaison Reports

Ruben Cardenas reported that CWU is finishing their academic year and commencement is this week.

7. Subcommittee Reports

Chair Goodloe reported the Grants Subcommittee is meeting on Friday.

8. Commission Representative Reports

No reports.

9. Staff Report

Staff requested a volunteer to replace Amber Hoefer and Kandee Cleary on the Climate and Environmental Planning Task Force. Kathryn Martell volunteered for the role.

Staff reported:

- New commission members will be onboarded after the meeting.
- City is looking for Ad Hoc Committee to consider possible taxi code changes.
- Touch A Truck and Coffee With City Council are on June 17.
- Juneteenth Celebration is on June 19.
- Community Picnic is on July 4.
- The AAEE Commission will be transitioned to new staff members this summer: Lisa Young and Gretchen Delaford.

10. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 3:57 p.m.

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

Drafted: 6/10/26

Approved: 7/14/26