



CITY OF ELLENSBURG

Date of Meeting

Time of Meeting

Place of Meeting

Minutes of Environmental Commission, Regular Meeting

February 18, 2026

5:15 PM

**Council Conference Room
501 North Anderson Street
Ellensburg, WA 98926**

[Environmental Commission Regular Meeting | Meeting-Join |
Microsoft Teams](#)

1. Call to Order and Roll Call of Members

Commissioner Wollman called the meeting to order at 5:15 p.m.

- 1.A Nancy Lillquist
Jordan Spradlin
Christina Wollman
Brenda DeVore
Kamran Hermann
Raven Harlin
___ OPEN ___ : *EHS Env. Club President (Ex-officio Member)*

Present: Nancy Lillquist, Jordan Spradlin, Christina Wollman, Brenda DeVore,
Kamran Hermann, Raven Harlin

Absent: None.

Others Present: Rebecca Springer - Water Resources Manager, Ryan Lyyski -
Public Work Director, Erin McGowan - Water / Storm Program Coordinator,
Shelly Edwards - KEEN, Meisner Dunlap - Staff Reporter CWU

2. Approval of Agenda

- 2.A Approval of the Proposed Agenda for February 18, 2026

Commissioner Lillquist moved to approve the agenda. Motioned passed 6-0.

3. Approval of Minutes

- 3.A Approval of the Meeting Minutes from January 21, 2026

Commissioner Lillquist moved to approve the January 21, 2026, meeting
minutes. Motion passed 6-0.

4. New Business

None.

5. Unfinished Business

- 5.A Climate & Environment Planning Task Force
Meeting #1: Tomorrow, Feb. 19 (3-5 pm) Com. Dev. Conference Room

Rebecca Springer reminded members that the first Climate & Environmental Planning Task Force meeting is scheduled for tomorrow, February 19th, from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. Environmental Commission representatives, Commissioners Wollman and Hermann, will share feedback with the Commission at its next meeting.

- 5.B 2026 Community Recycling Event Update

Rebecca Springer shared the finalized list of approved items for collection at the Community Recycling Event, scheduled for Saturday, May 2nd. It was confirmed that Kittitas County Solid Waste will collect small batteries, and Commissioner Spradlin will collect clothing for CWU's Professional Clothing Closet. The list of booths has been tentatively finalized, with a few organizations still pending follow-up.

Commissioner DeVore moved to approve the final recycling list, including any pending items. Motion passed 6-0.

- 5.C Bike Month Subcommittee Update

Commissioner Lillquist provided an update on the work being done by the Bike Month Subcommittee. Planning for the event is similar to last year. Raffle items are being secured, and local businesses along the bike route are being contacted for potential donations.

The Bike Month Event is scheduled for May 30th at Unity Park. Youth bike helmets will be distributed, and sponsors are being sought for fundraising. The Independent Order of Odd Fellows (IOOF), Washington State Parks, and Central Transit will participate. The Special Olympics bike team, OPR, and Kittitas County Public Health have been invited but have not confirmed. School principals will also be invited to promote Bike to School Day, and outreach is planned for Bike to Church and Bike to Work days.

The June bike rodeo still needs to be finalized for advertising.

6. Citizen Comment

Commissioner and guest introductions.

7. Staff Update/Discussion Items

- 7.A Tree City USA Application accepted by the Arbor Day Foundation, marking 43 years as a designated Tree City USA!

This year marks the 50th Anniversary of the Tree City USA program, and Ellensburg has been recognized for 43 years.

- There are four standards required to maintain the designation:
 1. Establish a community tree board, department, or position with legal authority for public tree care decisions
 2. Adopt a public tree care ordinance
 3. Maintain an annual expenditure of at least \$2 per capita on community tree care activities — In 2025, Ellensburg spent \$12.32 per capita to support Urban Forestry.
 4. Hold an Arbor Day observance and proclamation.

- 7.B City also received 3rd consecutive Growth Award for going above and beyond the minimum Tree City requirements!
In 2025, Ellensburg also received the Growth Award recognition. The Growth Award honors communities that go above and beyond the four standards of the Tree City USA program. This is the third consecutive year Ellensburg has received the award.

- Achievements contributing to the recognition include:
 1. Completion of the City Park & Facilities Tree Inventory.
 2. Implementation of a public outreach campaign as part of the broader Urban Forestry project, completed in summer 2025.
 3. Volunteer service efforts, including partnering with CWU SLICE Volunteers to plant trees and native plants in the areas of Irene Rinehart Park affected by the 2024 summer fires.

- 7.C Upcoming utility rate update and new sewer system plan updates.

Ryan Lyyski shared that Public Works has been working on utility rate updates and a new sewer system plan update, which will be presented to the Environmental Commission in March or April.

8. Adjournment

Commissioner Wollman adjourned the meeting at 5:45 p.m.