



DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION COMMISSION (DEI)
November 9, 2021 Regular Meeting
(3:00 to 4:30 p.m.) Remote Meeting via Zoom

Members Present: Tylene Carnell, Sara Omrani, Daniel Amos, Landis Hanson, Kandee Cleary, and Nancy Goodloe (chair)

Members Absent: Veronica Acevedo

Also present: Nicole Klauss, Public Information Officer (Recording Secretary); and 5 members of the public.

1. CALL TO ORDER / INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Nancy Goodloe called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM OCTOBER 12, 2021 MEETING

Motion: Commissioner Tylene Carnell moved to approve the agenda as presented and Commissioner Sara Omrani seconded. All in favor of the motion; motion passed.

Motion: Commissioner Carnell moved to approve the minutes from the October 26, 2021 DEI Commission Meeting, and Commissioner Omrani seconded. There was no discussion. All in favor of the motion; motion passed.

3. LIBRARY BRIEFING

Library Director Josephine Camarillo provided a briefing on the free services the Ellensburg Public Library offers in relation to diversity, equity, and inclusion such as programming, heritage month displays, partnerships, and community programming. She also talked about the library being a place for everyone. The commission asked Camarillo additional questions.

Commissioner Carnell asked if there was a staff member at the library who could help someone walk through the City website to find what they're looking for or locate resources. Camarillo said that is something the library can do. The library has a reference department to answer questions or facilitate what people need, or they can make a special appointment for more in-depth help.

Camarillo mentioned there is a need for more help for people experiencing homelessness. The library offers shower vouchers to the City pool and small toiletries. The library also provides resources to services such as HopeSource and FISH Food Bank. This year the cold weather shelter will be at First United Methodist Church across from the library. Commissioner Omrani said people experiencing homelessness are part of our community and we need to make sure that we're taking care of them just like we would do for any community member.

Commissioner Carnell asked whether there was an opportunity for some of the events or exhibits that happen on the CWU campus to also be displayed or held at the library or in town to bridge the town/gown divide. Camarillo said the library has had a great working relationship with CWU and is open to other opportunities.

Commission members expressed the value in the briefing. Klauss said City Transit Manager Betsy Dunbar is on the agenda for December.



4. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT REVIEW AND DISCUSSION

The Commission is still waiting on feedback from the Aronica family about the statement. Chair Goodloe asked about proposed rules of use of the land acknowledgement.

Chair Goodloe said CWU has a new land acknowledgement statement and instructions for use, and asked Commissioner Cleary for a copy of the new statement. Cleary said there was a real emphasis in thinking about how it links to that meeting or event. CWU also added a line of commitment to their statement where people reading it could make a commitment to do something such as work with tribes or a commitment to build relationships.

Commissioner Carnell said there has to be a meaningful tie to how it's being used.

Commissioner Hanson said he understands that using it selectively can add power, however, we are always on Indigenous lands, and asked if it is more pragmatic to use it to greatly affect certain things or use it all the time because we're always on Indigenous lands.

Commissioner Cleary said that's a good question but has concerns that when it's used all the time it becomes performative, and she doesn't want it to become checking a box. Commissioner Hanson agreed with Cleary's comments.

Chair Goodloe and Commissioner Cleary will work together to come up with a use recommendation and will bring it to the December meeting.

5. REVIEW IMAGES FOR DEI CHAPTER HEADER

The Commission revisited the images folder and looked through some of the images. There was discussion about some of the images not showing color or representation and it being important. Klauss will remove the cartoon-like images and will send a poll out to Commission.

6. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Commissioner Amos provided a report on the Japanese American War Heroes Exhibit. The Oregon Historical Society has funded this free exhibit called What If Heroes Were Not Welcome Home? It's about Japanese American Veterans, some from decorated units from WWII, and they came home and faced bigotry. They are working to bring the exhibit to CWU in 2022 and are looking for ways for the City to be involved as well as the USPS, which has recently produced stamps of Japanese American war heroes. Commissioner Amos asked Chair Goodloe for ideas on how the City could be involved, and Goodloe said she will give that some thought.

7. COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Commissioner Amos said he and Commissioner Carnell are working to set up a listening tour with the LDS Church.

Commissioner Landis Hanson said he attended the LGBTQ+ sit in at CWU and it went well, a lot of solidarity and a lot of people attended including CWU staff members. There is another meeting about the CCI (Center for Cultural Innovation) that he will attend. Nov. 9 is the anniversary of Kristallnacht.



Chair Goodloe said the Transgender Day of Remembrance is November 19 and will be held at the Methodist Church, starting at 7 p.m. Commissioner Omrani added that part of the reason that Trans Day of Remembrance is so important to the Queer community is because not only do trans people face higher levels of violence than other people in the Queer community, but also in many states the trans panic legal defense is a valid legal defense. Goodloe added that the murder rate is always really high. Omrani said it's been exceptionally high in the past two years.

Chair Goodloe talked about the attendance policy language and absences and wanted to make sure commissioners could access their City emails. Goodloe reminded everyone about the authentication process and said the City's IT can help with technology trouble.

8. STAFF REPORT

None.

9. PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Goodloe called for public comment.

Laci Harrison, chair of the Parks and Recreation Commission, provided public comment to introduce her concept idea for a culture week next year when Unity Park opens. Harrison will come back to a future meeting for discussion.

The meeting adjourned at 4:34 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by

Nicole Klauss

Recording Secretary

Drafted: 11/10/21

Approved: 12/14/21