



DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION COMMISSION (DEI)
December 14, 2021 Regular Meeting
(3:00 to 4:30 p.m.) Remote Meeting via Zoom

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

Members Absent: Sara Omrani (excused) and Landis Hanson

Also present: Nicole Klauss, Public Information Officer (Recording Secretary); Betsy Dunbar, Transit Manager; and 2 members of the public.

1. CALL TO ORDER / INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Nancy Goodloe called the meeting to order at 3:01 p.m.

Motion: Commissioner Daniel Amos moved to approve an excused absence to Commissioner Sara Omrani. Commissioner Kandee Cleary seconded. No discussion. The Commission voted 3-0 in favor of the motion; motion passed.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM NOVEMBER 9, 2021 MEETING

Motion: Commissioner Tylene Carnell moved to approve the agenda. Commissioner Amos seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The Commission voted 3-0 in favor of the motion; motion passed.

Motion: Commissioner Carnell moved to approve the minutes from the November 9, 2021 DEI Commission Meeting, and Commissioner Amos seconded. There was no discussion. The Commission voted 3-0 in favor of the motion; motion passed.

3. CENTRAL TRANSIT BRIEFING

City Transit manager Betsy Dunbar talked about paratransit service, the Transit app, SMS and IVR technology, bus schedules in Spanish and English, paratransit brochures in Braille, and CentralTransit.org.

Commissioner Amos asked how to apply for ADA paratransit, and Dunbar will provide the brochure to Klauss to forward to the commission.

Commissioner Carnell works at Helen House and receives questions from youth about accessing buses or other ways to get home. Carnell asked if there could be conversations about stops being added to fill gaps near the middle school. Dunbar said if there's a need we want to fill it. Central Transit does track ridership and is aware what areas are being utilized, but they are always looking to fill gaps where there is a need.

4. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT REVIEW AND DISCUSSION

Chair Goodloe reviewed the most current land acknowledgement statement that had been discussed at the commission, a statement she had drafted, a statement with suggested language from Sia and Tony Aronica, CWU's statement and Morgan Middle School's statement.

Some of the comments Chair Goodloe received from the Aronica family included that the statement is important to recognize the land. The work of the commission and the work of the city and what can be done through forums, websites, conversations, the education and historical issues around the land is where they felt like those pieces should happen, not in the statement.



Commissioner Carnell appreciated the suggestions from the Aronica family, and one of the challenges that Carnell had in putting this together from the very beginning was trying to encapsulate the greatest untold stories of an unrecognized history. Carnell said if we have a statement from our local Indigenous community, it's hard to want to change that.

Commissioner Cleary said the statement should be acknowledging the people and the land. The City should use the history, the colonialism, the broken treaties, the stealing children from their homes, missing and murdered Indigenous women, in a much broader form and talk about that history today. Cleary suggested including a reason on why they're reading the statement, why they're acknowledging the land, how is it meaningful in the specific situation.

The commission recommended a small addition to the statement provided by Sia and Tony, which came from a previous draft. The addition spoke to the history and the longevity of recognizing and caring for the land.

Some of the language suggestions will be saved for future Native American Heritage Month proclamations.

The commission reached consensus on moving forward with the land acknowledgement statement as follows:

"The City of Ellensburg is located on the historic home of the K'ti'tas and Pshwánapam bands of indigenous people. Today, these bands are part of the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation, a federally-recognized Native Nation constituted under the Treaty with the Yakamas of 1855. The indigenous stewards of this land practiced a subsistence lifestyle through fishing, hunting, and gathering since time immemorial and remain committed stewards of this land, cherishing it, protecting it and using it, as instructed by their elders through generations; actively practicing the traditions and culture as neighbors in the Ellensburg community."

The commission started discussing whether there should be rules of use for the statement submitted as a recommendation to the City Council on whether to allow people to choose when to use the statement so they can make sure there is meaning to the action.

Commissioner Amos said if the city is using public lands, this statement should be as close to mandatory as possible at the very minimum.

The commission will think about recommendations for use of the land acknowledgment, whether to provide recommendations of use or not, and will bring them to the January 11 meeting. The commission hopes to make a formal motion and recommendation about the land acknowledgement at that meeting.

Klauss will work on the resolution and staff report to bring to the January 11 meeting.

5. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Skipped this due to time.



6. STAFF REPORT

Klauss provided the staff report:

- Reviewed the 2022 meeting schedule and the 2022 proclamation schedule.
- The City Council is currently seeking applications for a vacancy, and they are due January 7.
- The DEI commission vacancy will be advertised in the new year.
- Washington Outdoor School may be interested in partnering with the DEI Commission on MLK Day project.
- Brad Case is scheduled for the January 11 meeting to provide a Unity Park update and Laci Harrison has also been invited.
- There will be a second reading of the comprehensive plan updates at the December 20 meeting, including the new DEI Chapter.

7. COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Chair Goodloe said there is a new documentary called "Paper and Glue" showing how art can be used to address differences in populations and bring people together.

8. PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Goodloe called for public comment. There was none.

The meeting adjourned at 4:32 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by

Nicole Klauss

Recording Secretary

Drafted: 12/15/2021

Approved: 1/11/2022