

CITY OF ELLENSBURG

Date of Meeting

Time of Meeting

Place of Meeting

Minutes of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

Commission Meeting

March 7, 2023

3:00 PM

Council Conference Room

Ellensburg, WA 98926

And remotely via Zoom

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

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

Roll Call Present: Kandee Cleary, Tylene Carnell, Alex Mandujano, Teresa Divine, Mayra Colazo and Nancy Goodloe (Chair)

Also present: Nicole Klauss, Public Information Officer (Recording Secretary) and Ramona Bryant (League of Women Voters)

2. Approval of Agenda

Chair Goodloe moved to add an additional item to the agenda to consider a liaison position for CWU and ESD under new business. Commissioner Carnell seconded the amendment. **Motion approved 5-0.** Commissioner Cleary moved to approve the amended agenda. Commissioner Colazo seconded the motion. **Motion approved 5-0.**

3. Approval of Minutes from February 14, 2023 Meeting

Commissioner Cleary moved to approve the February 14, 2023 meeting minutes. Commissioner Carnell seconded the motion. **Motion approved 5-0.**

4. Previous Meeting Motions And To-Do List Review

- Daniel will finalize first collaboration with CWU and City library about the Japanese American WWII Heroes event. **Nancy sent a note of inquiry to the museum.**
- Nicole needs to set up time for two commissioners to go to another commission meeting. **Commissioner Colazo & Mandujano are set to visit PTAC in April.**
- Tylene will finalize sponsorship of Pride 2023. **None.**
- Nancy will review subcommittees and individual responsibilities to commission.
- Teresa will meet with CWU Day of Action/Block Party Committee. **Day of Action met. HopeSource & APOYO are holding a panel discussion on campus about food insecurity.**
- Mayra and Alex will talk to contacts about plans for Cinco de Mayo event. **None.**
- Nancy will provide support to the Human Library event. **Nancy is helping interview people to be books for the April 22 event.**
- Mayra and Tylene will work on written request to ask Council to expand commission membership. **On agenda today.**

- Nancy and Alex will meet with ESD & CWU to plan spring World Café event. **In progress. Event is scheduled for 2-5 p.m. April 8 at Hal Holmes.**
- DEI Commission will start conversation about what is a safe community on agendas. **On agenda today.**
- Nicole will work with DEI Commission members and IT to ensure access to City email. **None.**

6. Subcommittee Reports

Commissioner Carnell provided an update on the grant subcommittee's work and showed some draft questions. They looked at the first-year report and are using that information to set the groundwork. Ideally the application is three questions at most. Want a low barrier so it is accessible. Still working on it.

Commissioner Carnell said commission is experiencing growing pains and is the only commission focused on the human experience. Commissioner Colazo suggested making it fair so organizations can apply in different years so it is not the same projects getting funded every year and there is equal opportunity.

There was discussion about the grant process not being ready in time for some of the community events that are coming up. Chair Goodloe said those could be reviewed and considered at the April meeting.

There was a question about whether Council did sponsorships, and Klauss said they usually refer people to the Council community grant program that opens in June.

Chair Goodloe shared draft questions for Belonging In The Burg and asked that anyone who has ideas for questions send them to herself, Alex, or Kandee before March 17. The theme is Building Bridges Together. Commissioner Colazo is going to review questions and suggest language that might help with translating and accessibility.

The Listening Tour Subcommittee is working on creating a draft document to address the reporting process after a listening tour so there is a consistent reporting process and timeline.

7. Commission Member Reports

Chair Goodloe reported the Episcopal Church is starting a series about community issues, held at the Palace Cafe every Wednesday at 6 p.m. starting March 8. They want to participate in difficult topics in the City.

Commissioner Colazo said Governor Inslee signed a new law requiring the Department of Licensing to have an equity, inclusion and diversity committee and she will be a representative on that State committee.

Commissioner Carnell said she is looking forward to the Human Library event and also mentioned there is a private Facebook group called "Out In Ellensburg" for SOGIE (sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression) folks and allies. The group

has 20- to 30-year-olds looking for things to do in Ellensburg, so Helen House is considering adding an event to their calendar for adults.

8. New Business

A. 2023 Proclamations/Recognition Days

The commission is considering a list of recognition days to put before City Council for approval. The commission would write posts to go out on the City's social media pages. The commission recommended adding a question to BeHeardEburg asking what days people would like to see recognized by the City of Ellensburg and then considering those at a future meeting. Juneteenth and Trans Visibility Day were suggested as additions to the draft list. Commission members will review their calendars and send additional suggestions to Klauss. The topic will be revisited in May.

B. Proposal to add seats to DEI Commission

Commissioner Carnell and Colazo worked on a memo requesting the City Council add two more positions to the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Commission for a total of 8 community members and 1 Council Chair. There were minor edits to the memo of changing event names to "community events" and adding Colazo's last name to the signature line.

Commissioner Carnell moved to approve sending the memo to City Council with the suggested edits. Commissioner Cleary seconded the motion. **Motion approved 5-0.**

C. Discuss adding CWU/ESD liaison positions to Commission

Chair Goodloe said there was a request from the CWU administration to be more involved in the work the DEI Commission is doing and to share a voice moving forward in addition to celebrating the newly signed Memorandum of Understanding with the City and Ellensburg School District. CWU wants to come up with some way to celebrate the MOU.

Motion: Commissioner Cleary moved to add 1 non-voting liaison position for Central Washington University and 1 non-voting liaison position for the Ellensburg School District to the City's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Commission. Commissioner Mandujano seconded the motion.

Discussion included mention of this opening the door to expand liaison seats to other organizations in the future, thoughts that the liaison should represent an impacted community in our community, allowing the organizations to choose who to represent them because it is better to have someone with a direct line to power and money, and making sure impacted communities continue to have a voice on commission. **Motion approved 5-0.**

- D. The Commission started the safe community discussion, which is on the work plan. Commissioner Carnell said Helen House is partnering with KCHN to do safe space trainings. Focus on SOGI communities, some topics include microaggressions. There are 20-25 people going through train the trainer. As that grows more people can be brought into the conversation.

Commissioner Colazo said for her, a safe community is about where she fits in. She doesn't go to places where she doesn't feel like she fits in or doesn't see other people like her.

Commissioner Mandujano said safety is relative.

Chair Goodloe said everything the commission does is trying to move toward a safe community. Goodloe suggested having a conversation at a retreat next year to define safety and plan projects that address it. The group suggested adding a topic to the Be Heard Eburg website asking about safety.

9. Staff Report

Klauss said there is a vacancy on the DEI Commission, and shared the timeline for filling the position. Interviews will likely take place in late April. Commissioner Cleary volunteered to be on the interview committee with Chair Goodloe. There is room for one more member to assist with interviews.

Klauss said CWU is looking for ways to celebrate the signing of the MOU between CWU, ESD & the City about DEI

10. Public Comment

Chair Goodloe called for public comment; there was none.

11. Preview Next Meeting April 11, 2023

- Bathroom accessibility information from P&R

Meeting adjourned at 4:24 p.m.

Nicole Klauss

Drafted: 3/8/23

Approved: 4/11/23