

ELLENSBURG ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

**December 15, 2021 Regular Meeting
(5:15 p.m. to 5:55 p.m.)
Hybrid Meeting In-Person and Zoom**

Members Present: Christina Wollman, Daphne Condon, Andrea Sledge, Kristine Steinkoenig, Laura Busby, James Rivard, and Steve Luten

Members Absent:

Also present: Nancy Lillquist, Council Member, Josh Mattson, Assistant City Engineer; and Jamey Ayling, Planning Manager

CALL TO ORDER

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

AGENDA

The agenda was acknowledged with no changes.

MINUTES

Commissioner Luten moved to approve the November 17, 2021 regular meeting minutes as presented. Commissioner Sledge seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.

CITIZEN COMMENT

There was no citizen comment.

NEW BUSINESS

P21-143 Palouse to Cascade Trail and Traffic Signal

Council Member Lillquist recused herself and left the discussion.

Josh Mattson, Assistant City Engineer, presented the Palouse to Cascade Trail and Traffic Signal SEPA. The project will connect the gap on Alder Street between Dean Nicholson Blvd and the Palouse to Cascade Trail Head at the Kittitas Valley Event Center. It will also include a new signal at the 14th Street/Alder Street/Dean Nicholson Blvd. There will also be some signal improvements at Alder Street and University Way. This project is part of the reconnect project dating back to 2001 and will finally tie the northern part of the trail to the Palouse to Cascade Trail. Mr. Mattson explained the details of the project that included new street trees, improved street lighting, new curb and a narrowing of the street and widening of the multi-use pathway.

Commissioner Condon commented that the roots of the existing trees have caused significant buckling of the sidewalk. She asked what the sidewalk maintenance plan would be with the new trees. Mr. Mattson said a wider buffer strip will be installed which will provide more space for the new trees and the new tree type will be a smaller variety so the root zone will not need as much space. There are soil amendment and watering methods around the trees to encourage the roots to go down rather than spread along the surface. Commissioner Condon also asked how long the intersection be impaired for maintenance on the light. Mr. Mattson answered the project would take the summer, but the intersection would be approximately 6-8 weeks.

The Environmental Commission had no recommendations.

OLD BUSINESS

May 2022 Bike Month

Council Member Lillquist gave a brief synopsis of the discussion from November's meeting. She contacted several groups and the Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance, and they were interested, but didn't provide any details of a project. Commissioner Condon contacted the Sustainable Transportation Club and while there was interest, there weren't many suggestions. Council Member Lillquist noted there could be an event or something as simple as a competition through social media. The commission discussed the idea of a 'bike day'. It was suggested the Chamber of Commerce and EDA may be able to help with publicity. The commission members discussed various groups to contact for support and would bring updates at the January meeting.

Nancy also told the commissioners there was an open seat on city council if anyone was interested.

STAFF UPDATE/DISCUSSION ITEMS

There were no staff update or discussion items.

ADJOURNMENT- The meeting adjourned at 5:55 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by
Laura Wilson
Recording Secretary (Drafted 2/7/2022)