

**ELLENSBURG ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**

**February 16, 2022 Regular Meeting  
(5:15 p.m. to 6:15 p.m.)  
Hybrid Meeting In-Person and Zoom**

Members Present: Christina Wollman, Kristine Steinkoenig, Steve Luten, Andrea Sledge, Daphne Condon, and Raven Harlin

Members Absent:

Also present: Council Member Winn, Council Liaison; Stefanie Wickstrom, Environmental Commission Applicant; and Laura Wilson, Planner

**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 Steinkoenig moved to approve the December 15, 2021 regular meeting minutes as presented. Commissioner Sledge seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.

Commissioner Steinkoenig moved to approve the January 19, 2022 regular meeting minutes as presented. Commissioner Condon seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.

**CITIZEN COMMENT**

There was no citizen comment.

**BICYCLE ADVISORY**

Commission Harlin provided a brief update from the Bike Month planning meeting held in January. Commissioner Steinkoenig asked that she be notified of the next planning meeting. Council Member Winn stated he would find out when the next meeting would be and pass the information to Mrs. Wilson.

**STAFF UPDATE/DISCUSSION ITEMS**

Mrs. Wilson provided a brief update from the January meeting on the Environmental Commission's goals. She stated the purpose of the discussion was to get an idea of the Commission's priority regarding which sections of city code, to include parts of the building code, they would want to learn more about. She wanted to know from the commission members what they were most concerned about regarding the environment. Commissioner Steinkoenig asked where there may be some overlap in the commissions.

Mrs. Wilson reviewed the powers and duties from Ellensburg City Code 1.60.280 and gave examples of each duty. She stated item C, 'Propose programs for consideration by the city council, and when authorized by the council, carry out these projects and programs' may be an area the commission could focus their attention. Commissioner Wollman also shared previous commission discussions which led to looking further into what city code already required.

Commissioner Wollman stated that in the previous discussions, there was a lot of focus by former commission members how to improve energy efficiency of homes but there wasn't full understanding of how strict the state code requirements already were. The previous commission discussed ideas such as providing incentives for

developers to recycle building materials or build solar ready structures. The former members also identified barriers to incentives. The overall goal was to encourage citizens to be more energy efficient by possibly providing incentives for developers to incorporate conservation measures during construction. Commissioner Sledge mentioned another discussion idea was to meet with developers to get a sense of obstacles and issues related to efficiency measures required by the state. Commissioner Wollman remembered one of the priorities of the commission has been to increase energy efficiency of new construction and if the commission's focus was energy efficiency it could be helpful to understand what the developers are proposing specific to the topic without having to dig through different sections of the checklist to find out the answer to their question.

There was a brief discussion of the comprehensive plan update schedule and Commissioner Luten suggested getting more information on that process. He preferred getting more involved in that process as it would allow input on the growth of Ellensburg that would happen over the next 5, 10, and 15 years. He shared his experience with the energy code was there were always discussions happening at the state and national level. It's a continual discussion and by the time it gets to implementation at the local level, there were already discussions at the state level on the future energy code changes. He said the Commission could have a more tangible impact shaping what the community will look like at the local level.

Commissioner Sledge noted three areas to look at based on the discussion so far which were: property development that commissioner Wollman mentioned; urban planning that commissioner Luten mentioned, and finally community advocacy that are positive relative to the environment. Commissioner Sledge's example was the plastic bag ban which impacted the community.

Mrs. Wilson reviewed the suggestions from the discussion which were to invite the Building Official to explain the energy code update, have staff explain the comp plan update process, and ask the City's Public Information Officer highlight the Environmental Commission on its social media page. Commissioner Harlin suggested supporting programs that were already underway with other community groups. One suggestion was to have the City's Public Information Officer highlight the Environmental Commission on social media or the city's website. Commissioner Wollman asked to Mrs. Wilson to notify them of upcoming Planning Commission meeting agendas. Council Member Winn asked about starting a Be Heard Eburg survey about what environmental issues the community would like the city to address.

**ADJOURNMENT-** The meeting adjourned at 6:15 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by  
Laura Wilson  
Recording Secretary (Drafted 3/1/2022)