



DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION COMMISSION (DEI)
June 22, 2021 Regular Meeting
(3:00 to 4:30 p.m.) Remote Meeting via Zoom

Members Present: Veronica Acevedo, Daniel Amos, Delores (Kandee) Cleary, Sara Omrani, Tylene Carnell and Nancy Goodloe (chair)

Members Absent: Landis Hanson

Also present: Kirsten Sackett, Community Development Director; Stacey Henderson, Senior Planner; Nicole Klauss, Public Information Officer (Recording Secretary); and 1 member of the public.

1. CALL TO ORDER / INTRODUCTIONS

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

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Commissioner Veronica Acevedo moved to approve the agenda as presented. Commissioner Tylene Carnell seconded. All in favor; motion passed.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM JUNE 8, 2021 MEETING

Motion: Commissioner Sara Omrani moved to approve the minutes from the June 8, 2021 DEI Commission Meeting, and Commissioner Daniel Amos seconded. Five members voted in favor and one abstained due to an absence; motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS

4. LGBTQ+ FLAG BURNING INCIDENT, ELLENSBURG CITY COUNCIL STATEMENT, UNFURLING OF LARGE FLAG AT CWU

City Public Information Officer Nicole Klauss talked about the LGBTQ+ flag burning incident at CWU and said the Ellensburg City Council put out a statement. Klauss said that Commissioner Carnell helped bring the Seattle Pride Fest's large LGBTQ Pride Flag to campus for the unfurling event.

Commissioner Kandee Cleary said the student has been arrested and was being charged with stealing with university property and destroying university property, and it's up to the prosecutor to decide if the student will be charged with a hate crime. The student will also have to go through the university's student conduct process.

The commission discussed the incident and the definition of a hate crime offense according to RCW 9A.36.080.

Commissioner Carnell asked if there is a protocol or steps to take if the DEI Commission wants to put out a statement for any incident. Community Development Director Kirsten Sackett said the commission could schedule a special meeting with at least 24 hours of notice to the public and could then discuss it.

5. DISCUSS COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATES

Sackett said Senior Planner Stacey Henderson will take the lead on writing the narrative portion of the DEI chapter of the comprehensive plan. She will have a draft in the next few weeks. Sackett said those who previously volunteered to help with the narrative portion will be asked to review it for feedback via



email or meet as a subcommittee via Zoom. Commissioners Amos and Cleary both said they could be available to help.

Sackett said staff is putting together a docket item for the comprehensive plan submission deadline of June 30, and Council docket on July 19. Sackett's goal is to have a final draft of the DEI chapter by the commission's second meeting in August that could be used to start the SEPA process. Surveys might still be going on. There are two weeks of state agency public comment, and then it goes out to the public for three weeks. There will also be a public hearing at a planning commission meeting. Edits can be requested at the public meeting and there could still be edits made based on public comment before it goes to planning commission in September and Council in October. There is slight flexibility to push that one month.

6. REVIEW COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT QUESTIONS & FINALIZE

Klauss reviewed the ways questions can be asked on the Be Heard Eburg community engagement platform.

The commission reviewed the questions from the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Council Subcommittee's listening tour, and made a couple of minor edits to the wording to come up with the questions to ask the community:

1. Do you feel welcome in Ellensburg? Why or why not? Are there people, places or events that stand out to you? What things could make you feel more welcome (ex. A multicultural festival)?
2. Please describe any situation or events in Ellensburg that make you feel unwelcome, or even unsafe here.
3. The number of people in our community is growing and becoming more diverse. What would you like to see the city do to be better prepared today for the changing demographics happening now and in the future?
4. Not everyone in Ellensburg has access to what they need to reach their full potential. How can we as a city, as a community, do better at being a place where everyone has the chance to flourish?
5. What is the best way for us to get information to you?
 - a. Email
 - b. Social media
 - c. U.S. Mail
 - d. Meetings
 - e. _____ other (Please fill in the blank)
6. What is the best way for you to share information with us?
 - a. Email?
 - b. Social media?
 - c. U.S. Mail
 - d. Meetings?
 - e. _____ other (Please fill in the blank)



The commission expressed interest in adding questions about race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation and age to the registration process on Be Heard Eburg.

Sackett brought up community outreach and said the commission members will be sharing the survey out to their network. Staff will come up with an email body they can forward on with the website link.

Sackett mentioned it's possible the governor is going to open the ability to meet in person and asked whether the commission would like to have additional listening tour sessions or other avenues for getting feedback besides the online component. Commissioner Omrani said in-person things are good for community building.

Sackett said the commission can try to host in-person meetings in July, August and early in September to get that feedback included in the comprehensive plan chapter. Depending on turnout there is nothing to stop the group from continuing to hold listening sessions even after that, and additional feedback could potentially be included in the following year's plan updates. Having those conversations may be beneficial whether it ends up in the plan or not.

Sackett asked the commission to think about what it would take to have some of those listening sessions, what people are able to do, and what groups they want to reach out to.

Klauss said we should know about meeting in person before the next commission meeting. Sackett said at that meeting we can discuss what the commission wants to do with the listening sessions.

Sackett asked the commission to think about other methods for engaging the community. Chair Goodloe suggested doing some things at the university. Commissioner Amos said the commission is so diverse, and one of the ways to take advantage of it is having 1:1 conversations with people to get information.

Commissioner Omrani suggested once a month office hours at City Hall where someone could potentially be on site during set hours to take feedback.

Chair Goodloe asked if physical copies of the survey would be available in person for those who do not have internet access. Staff indicated there could be printed copies at City Hall.

Commissioner Acevedo suggested sending it out with utility bills.

Commissioner Carnell suggested there might there might be an ability to target different languages. Commissioner Acevedo said she could help translate the survey questions into Spanish.

Chair Goodloe suggested creating a banner that says Be Heard Eburg to hang over University Way. Sackett said we need to follow up to see if there's availability for a banner spot.

7. STAFF REPORT



Klauss said the commission will be asked at their next meeting to review a policy about appointment to boards and commissions. Klauss also mentioned this commission will be taking over writing the heritage month proclamations for the City.

Chair Goodloe reported on National Race Unity Day.

8. PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Goodloe called for public comment; there was none.

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by

Nicole Klauss

Recording Secretary

Drafted: 6/23/21

Approved: 7/13/21