



DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION COMMISSION (DEI)
September 28, 2021 Regular Meeting
(3:00 to 4:30 p.m.) Remote Meeting via Zoom

Members Present: Veronica Acevedo, Tylene Carnell, Sara Omrani, Kandee Cleary, Landis Hanson, and Nancy Goodloe (chair)

Members Absent: Daniel Amos (excused)

Also present: Nicole Klauss, Public Information Officer (Recording Secretary); Heidi Behrends Cerniwey, City Manager; and 4 members of the public.

1. CALL TO ORDER / INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Nancy Goodloe called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m.

Motion: Commissioner Sara Omrani moved to approve an excused absence for Commissioner Daniel Amos, and Commissioner Kandee Cleary seconded. All in favor of the motion; motion passed.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM September 14, 2021 MEETING

Motion: Commissioner Tylene Carnell moved to approve the minutes from the September 14, 2021 DEI Commission Meeting, and Commissioner Sara Omrani seconded. All in favor of the motion; motion passed.

3. WORK PLAN DISCUSSION

Chair Nancy Goodloe and recording secretary Nicole Klauss reviewed the existing work plan action item list, the tasks outlined in Ordinance 4871, and the items outlined in the Council's IDE Subcommittee report. Goodloe asked if there were any other action items the commission wanted to add to the list.

Commissioner Kandee Cleary brought up the assessment piece, how is the commission going to look at it and make it better after they have some experience. Some items will require a lot of work or funding. Chair Goodloe said as the commission moves along, they will have a place to put budget items so when the budget cycle comes around, they can request funds as needed. Cleary said implementing celebrations will take money and time.

Chair Goodloe said when the commission starts to prioritize the list, they will have to figure out workload and not overcommit. They will have to ask what the highest priority is and how to deal with it. The commission suggested adding three items to the action items list: Produce the annual report for City Council, complete the partnership list (organizations, people and contact information), and a communication plan for reaching out to the community. Chair Goodloe talked about the Race Unity Day event and said we have to get our diverse populations to events. Commissioner Cleary said part of that communication plan will go hand in hand with events and celebrations.

Commissioner Carnell said this is going to be one of those things that takes time. There will be a lot of people in the community that will sit back and watch, and there needs to be some serious intent in this moving forward. The commission needs to make sure there's genuine purpose behind what



they're trying to bring people to or get folks involved in. A lot of this is going to be relationship building.

Commissioner Omrani agreed it will be about trust building and community building. She suggested considering community liaisons the commission communicates with.

Chair Goodloe will work with Klauss on developing organization system of the action items. At the next meeting the commission will discuss priority action items. Chair Goodloe suggested prioritizing two or three items at the next meeting to start working on process of how to get to those items.

4. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT REVIEW AND DISCUSSION

The land acknowledgement subcommittee met a few times and decided who they would talk to as they started the process of developing a statement. Commissioner Carnell (and Commissioner Amos) met with Sadie Thayer from the Kittitas County Historical Museum and had a great conversation. Part of the conversation was that this would be a statement presented at the beginning of a City Council meeting and trying to keep that intentional but brief. The subcommittee also spent time working on the why since this is being proposed to City Council.

Commissioner Carnell said Commissioner Daniel Amos was interested in connecting with Commissioner Cleary because there was a part that he pulled from CWU's land acknowledgement statement. Commissioner Cleary said Central's land acknowledgement statement really came from the Yakamas. Commissioner Cleary said the Yakamas should have some say in the statement.

The Commission reviewed the draft of the two land acknowledgement statements. Chair Goodloe said she was not sure if would be read every time at City Council meetings but may be put on the agenda. Commissioner Carnell said the first part of the document spoke to the why and could be used for the presentation to the City Council.

Commissioner Omrani said the subcommittee talked about writing a sample land acknowledgement and passing it off to someone who is Indigenous for review and additions or subtractions of language. The Commission was in support of the suggestion. Commissioner Cleary will reach out to the Aronica family to get feedback on the land acknowledgement and will provide the current draft as a starting point.

5. COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Commissioner Sara Omrani expressed interest in setting up a listening tour with CWU students and will work with Klauss on a flyer for the listening session. Commissioner Landis Hanson said his office can stamp the flyer so it can go up in the Student Union and Recreation Center on campus.

6. STAFF REPORT

Recording secretary Nicole Klauss provided an update on the BookMobile. Ellensburg Morning Rotary was made aware of this incident, and their literacy committee is planning to purchase more



books on BIPOC and LGBTQ topics to incorporate into the Bookmobile. There are currently books in those categories on BookMobile, but they are not separated out into their own category.

Klauss said the goal is to have the Native American Heritage Month Proclamation available for review at the October 12 meeting. It must be completely finalized by October 21st to make it into the November agenda packet.

Klauss was asked to give a brief presentation about the DEI Commission to the morning Rotary group on October 14. Commissioner Carnell will also attend.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Goodloe called for public comment. Theresa Plue, 140 Woodhouse Loop, provided public comment on the action items the DEI Commission had previously discussed. Plue agreed with Commissioner Carnell that this takes time to develop in the community. Plue said there's opportunity to build bridges between different groups of people and thinks that music and celebration and food are things that people bring culturally to celebrations and everybody seems to enjoy partaking in. Plue referenced the "Field of Dreams" if you build it quote, and encouraged the commission to build the community celebrations through subcommittees or groups.

The meeting adjourned at 4:22 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by
Nicole Klauss
Recording Secretary
Drafted: 9/29/21
Approved: 10/12/21