

City of Cle Elum
Planning Commission (CEPC) Meeting Minutes
City Council Chambers
August 5, 2025 | 6:00 PM

Call to Order

Chair Kantwill called the meeting to order at 6:05 PM

Roll Call

CEPC Members Present: Paul Kantwill, Gary Berndt, Jon Cornelius, and Amanda Hahnemann (zoom)

CEPC Members Absent: Marc Kirkpatrick, Colin Brissey, and Ian Steele. **Commissioner Berndt made a motion to excuse Commissioners Kirkpatrick, Brissey and Steele. Corneilius seconded. Motion carried.**

Council Liaison: Cassidy Buechele-Curtis

Staff Present: Colleda Monick

Public Comment

None.

Adoption of Minutes

Commissioner Berndt motioned to accept the July 15, 2025 minutes as presented. Commissioner Cornelius seconded. Motion carried.

Public Hearing- City Planning

None.

Commission and Staff Reports

Colleda Monick, Staff Announcements:

- **Historic Preservation Commission Openings:** There is still a vacancy on the Historic Preservation Commission.
- **Comprehensive Plan:** Commerce has not issued updated grant contracts

New Business

1. 2017 Community Vision Summary

Chair Kantwill's Remarks:

- Opened discussion with a brainstorming session on the community vision and how to move forward with updating the Comprehensive Plan.
- Noted that many challenges facing the community have persisted for decades, dating back to the 1960s, making progress seem daunting.
- Highlighted what he believed are top four issues: jobs, business, connectivity, and workforce housing.
- Emphasized focusing on items the Commission can realistically influence.
- Questioned how the community can address the seasonal economy and reliance on seasonal workers.

Commissioner Berndt:

- Noted lack of cheap power and natural gas in the area – limiting economic development.

- Emphasized the need for proactivity in economic development.

Commissioner Cornelius:

- Observed Cle Elum has inadvertently become a bedroom community due to land availability and freeway proximity.
- Suggested exploring workforce housing solutions and recognizing the existing labor force, particularly in trades.
- Noted commuting to Ellensburg is a feasible option for residents.

Community Member Nora Kantwill:

- Shared an analogy comparing Cle Elum to Charlottesville, Virginia—a bedroom community of Washington DC facing similar economic and connectivity challenges.
- Pointed out economic divides, high housing costs, low wages, limited manufacturing, and a largely transient population.

Chair Kantwill concluded the discussion:

- Proposed the Commission complete “homework” to identify priorities for the benefit of compiling a collective list to develop a new vision statement.

Citizen Comments on Agenda Items

None

Next Meeting Agenda Development

- Chair Kantwill’s homework assignment – Comp Plan Priorities and Vision
- CEMC 17.04.040 Nonconforming (moved to get more voices)
- Comp Plan Updates

Commissioner Comments and Discussion

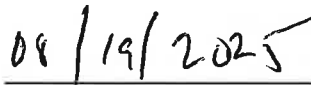
Berndt – requested an update on schedule? – regular meeting schedule is in effect, first and third Tuesday of the month at 6 PM.

Adjournment

Chair Kantwill adjourned the meeting 7:09. The Commission will reconvene on August 19, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.



Chair Kantwill



Date