

**City of Cle Elum
Planning Commission (CEPC) Meeting Minutes
City Council Chambers
February 17, 2026 | 6:00 PM**

Call to Order

Commissioner Kantwill called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM

Roll Call

CEPC Members Present: Gary Berndt, Marc Kirkpatrick, Colin Brissey and Paul Kantwill

CEPC Members Absent: Ian Steele and Amanda Hahnemann

Council Liaison: Cassidy Buechele-Curtis

Staff Present: Colleda Monick

Commissioner Berndt made a motion to excuse Commissioner Steele and Hahnemann. Commissioner Kirkpatrick seconded. Motion carried.

Election of Officers

The Commission discussed the election of officers and elected to postpone until the next meeting in hopes that more Commissioners could be in attendance.

Public Comment

Councilmember Cook, resident of Cle Elum: Provided an update to the Commission regarding the Land Use Element discussion. Noted that the city has included specific Countywide Planning Policies as written. Mentioned Commissioner Kirkpatrick's interest in adding "water rights" to one of these policies and in exploring whether the County would consider amending it. Cook forwarded this inquiry to Chad Bala, the County's Planning Director.

Adoption of Minutes

Commissioner Berndt motioned to accept the February 3, 2026 minutes as presented. Commissioner Kirkpatrick seconded. Motion carried.

Public Hearing- City Planning

None scheduled

Commission and Staff Reports

Colleda Monick, Staff Announcements:

- **SS4A Open House** scheduled for February 25, 2026, from 2:00 to 3:00 PM at the Upper Kittitas County Senior Center, there is a flyer that was included in the packet with additional information.
- **New Hires:** Assistant City Administrator Ericka Crumb started today, and the City recently hired a Planning Director, Shannon Johnson.
- **Public Hearing:** Text Amendments for nonconforming uses and edits to the table of permitted uses was approved by Council on February 10th, so that Ordinance goes into effect today and

anyone interested in a Sports Facility in the Downtown Commercial zoning district may now apply.

New Business

1. Comp Plan: Housing Element

Staff presented an overview of proposed amendments to the Comprehensive Plan Housing Element. The proposed changes reflect requirements of the Growth Management Act and prior Commission direction to improve clarity and readability. The Commission reviewed and discussed the draft plan and proposed revisions. The discussion ended on the Adequate Provisions Matrix, with the direction to Commissioners to spend some time reviewing and come prepared to discuss at the next meeting (page 24).

Next Meeting Agenda Development

- a. Election of Officers
- b. Introduction of Planning Director, Shannon Johnson
- c. Housing Element Draft continued

Commissioner Comments and Discussion

Commissioner Kantwill noted that Commissioner Cassidy was the “unofficial winner” of the Superbowl score prediction.

Commissioner Brissey, attending remotely from Washington, D.C., shared that he spent the day traveling between the House, the Senate, and the White House, and expressed appreciation that our city government doesn’t require quite so much walking. He also thanked the volunteer Commission for their hard work.

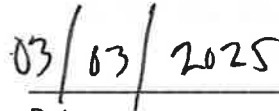
Councilmember Buechele-Curtis extended thanks to the HLA team for their work on the Comprehensive Plan, highlighting their efforts to consider multiple perspectives and help document the process.

Adjournment

Kantwill adjourned the meeting at 7:20 pm. The Commission will reconvene on March 3, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.



Chair



Date