

**City of Cle Elum
Planning Commission (CEPC) Meeting Minutes
City Council Chambers
Special (Date) Meeting , March 31, 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, Paul Kantwill and Ian Steele

CEPC Members Absent: Amanda Hahnemann

Council Liaison: Cassidy Buechele-Curtis (absent)

Staff Present: Shannon Johnson

Hahnemann PER

Commissioner Berndt made a motion to excuse Commissioner ~~Brissey~~. Commissioner Kirkpatrick seconded. Motion carried.

Public Comment

None.

Adoption of Minutes

Commissioner Steele motioned to accept the March 3, 2026 minutes as presented. Commissioner Brissey seconded. Motion carried.

Public Hearing- City Planning

None scheduled

Commission and Staff Reports

Shannon Johnson, Staff Announcements:

Shannon Johnson gave a brief synopsis of her first month as the new Planning Director.

New Business

1. Comp Plan: Parks Element

The Planning Commission began its review of the Parks Element, and had staff guide them through the new document page by page to discuss each titled paragraph which resulted in the following feedback and proposed edits:

Introduction

No comments.

Purpose

No comments.

Growth Management Act

No Comments.

Countywide Planning Policies

No comments, however, the commissioners would like the consultant to elaborate on this and provide more information for the next meeting. The commission discussed revising to state that Cle Elum's Planning Policies should align with the County's Planning Policies, section 10. The group discussed the need for more Cle Elum specific intention and suggests the consultant elaborate on how it complies with Cle Elum code and whether the 2016 County reference is current and or if it will change.

No Comments, group will wait for more information and revisit this section at the next meeting.

Existing Park and Recreation Facilities

Table 1. Title – Correct Open Spaceal typo, add the Commercial Recreation Center, add Commercial Rec. Center to the map as well.

Table 2. Correct John Wayne Trail in Table 2 and throughout entire document to new name: Palouse to Cascades Trail (throughout the entire document), add the new park on 6th Street. List all the fields of the schools. Update all City Park names (Rotary Flagpole Park, etc.)

Table 3. No Comments

City of Cle Elum Parks Map - Within the Legend: Replace UGA with Municipal to read: Separate Municipal Boundaries. Add the link as separate text – the table and map should sync. Please update so that the link accesses the GIS record.

Page 10

Second Paragraph – please correct South Cle Elum Way to include Hartwig Boulevard.
After 3rd Paragraph, prior to Fourth Paragraph (final paragraph of the section) Chair Kantwill offers the following suggestions and language below to be incorporated accordingly.

Specifically, this language should be included on page 10 of the draft document, as the penultimate paragraph of the "Existing Park and Recreation Facilities," above the conclusion paragraph of that section:

Our City is possessed of unparalleled beauty, geography, and location. Thus, Cle Elum has the unique opportunity to take advantage of these factors. In order to do so, we must connect: we must connect the existing trails highlighted above; we must connect to our neighboring communities; we must allow for our residents and guests to transit our area easily and safely. In short, if we connect all of the above, we can begin to realize the potential we have.

For some time we have identified ways to connect: the Coal Mines Trail to the Palouse to Cascade Trails network; to connect the Suncadia and Bullfrog Flats communities to Cle Elum and to allow for

safe, non-vehicle passage thereto; to connect the Cle Elum Roslyn School District (CERSD) to all of our neighboring communities, and to allow students to travel to school safely and healthfully (by foot, bicycle, etc.); to allow the CERSD to utilize the land adjacent to its facilities for recreation and other uses; to allow our residents and guest with year-round opportunities for healthful recreation; and to connect-physically and safely-the communities of Cle Elum, South Cle Elum, Roslyn, Ronald, the Teanaway, etc. We have the opportunity to make Wye Park the recreation and social hub of the Upper County.

In short, this plan allows for creating a true trail network of sidewalks and trails, allowing for year-round, safe recreation and transit. This must be one of our very highest priorities.

Estimates of Demand

Table 4. Change Tennis Courts to Racquet Sport Courts.

Page 12. First paragraph – correct Bullfrog UGA (remove UGA).

Last section, Page 12. Commissioners discussed exploring all active public and private resources.

Capital Improvement Program Financing

Question: 1st Paragraph, Page 13, 6-10 years, why 6?

Table 5. Page 14 No comments.

Continued Table 5 page 15. Combine L1 & L3 Correct L2 Replace Pool with Upper Kittitas County Community Recreation Center. Combine L2 & L5. Remove L4.

Tree Canopy

Replace the first paragraph with : The City of Cle Elum participates in the Tree City USA program that provides its own set of aspirational goals.

City of Cle Elum Percent Tree Canopy Cover Map. Within the Legend: Replace UGA with Municipal to read: Separate Municipal Boundaries. Update the Bullfrog Flats GIS imagery.

Regional Approaches

No comments.

Goals and Policies

Page 20. PRO 10.2 Doubled, correct it to 10.3. Revise last sentence to read: Design and develop parks, recreation and open space to accommodate access and safety for all users and adhere to all applicable local, state and federal requirements.

Staff also went over minor revisions to the Housing Element goals and policies. Commissioners offered feedback and proposed edits, including the addition of potential community partners such as Kaleidoscope Community Services.

The Commission finalized their discussion and edits for the time being on the Housing Element.

Next Meeting Agenda Development

- a. Continued Review of the Parks Element
- b. Transportation Element, Capital Facilities

Commissioner Comments and Discussion

Chair Kantwill reminded members that the next regularly scheduled meeting will be on Tuesday, April 21, 2026. Commissioner Brissey informed that he most likely will not be able to attend the next meeting.

Adjournment

Kantwill adjourned the meeting at 7:26 pm. The Commission will reconvene for their next Meeting set for April 21, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.



Chair Kantwill

04/21/2026

Date