CITY OF LIBERTY LAKE
Community Engagement Commission Minutes
August 19, 2026 – 6:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER:
The meeting of the Community Engagement Commission was called to order by chairman Bill Norman on Aug. 19, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL:
Position 1: Robin Bekkedahl **Present**
Position 2: Bill Norman **Present**
Position 3: Brittany Sitton **Absent**
Position 4: Lori Merkel **Excused**
Position 5: Ralph Carlberg **Present**
Position 6: Vacant
Position 7: Leah Stussy **Present**
Position 8: Vacant
Position 9: Mark Saba **Excused**
Communications specialist David Goehner **Present**

Commissioner Bekkedahl moved and Commissioner Stussy seconded to excuse Commissioners Merkel and Saba, and the motion passed.

APPROVALS:
Commissioner Stussy moved and Commissioner Bekkedahl seconded to approve the meeting's agenda, and the motion passed.

Commissioner Carlberg moved and Commissioner Stussy seconded to approve the minutes of the meeting of July 22, 2026, and the motion passed.

Commissioner Stussy moved and Commissioner Bekkedahl seconded to approve the minutes of the workshop meeting of July 29, 2026, and the motion passed.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:
There were no public comments.

CITY HALL UPDATES:
Goehner introduced and answered questions about the City Hall Update that had been mailed out earlier in the week. Questions were asked and answered about the planned goat sculpture project at Town Square Park and about the background of the goat stickers that are distributed at Farmers Market.

DISCUSSIONS & BUSINESS:

A – CEC purposes and responsibilities: Chairman Norman reported that he has reached out to the chairs of the other commissions, and no progress has been made yet toward having discussions to find ways for the CEC to be more utilized by other city commissions. Norman suggested the commission should find more ways to become more relevant. Commissioner Stussy said she had met recently with City Council member Arlene Fisher about the commission's term limits proposal that was made earlier this year.

B – Community Forum on Next Year's City Budget (coming Aug. 20, 6-7:30 p.m. at the Library): Commissioners discussed who would be able to attend this, and encouraged each other to listen, learn, pose questions, and be prepared to assist in any small group discussions at the Aug. 20 forum.

C – Sidewalk Master Plan public engagement – After brief discussion, Commissioner Stussy moved and Commissioner Carlberg seconded to continue this discussion at the next meeting so Commissioner Saba could be available to participate, and the motion passed.

D – Marketing calendar development/discussion: Commissioner Norman discussed future opportunities for the CEC's involvement with events sponsored by the city and local private groups. Discussion also centered on developing a calendar that would help the CEC know what to promote, possibly as a seasonal calendar or one that could be mapped out as far ahead as would be reasonable. Commissioner Stussy suggested that a subcommittee be created to develop a calendar and that this could be included in the agenda for next month's meeting. Commissioner Stussy presented this as a motion and Commissioner Carlberg seconded, and the motion passed.

E – CEC 2026 Annual Report & 2027 budget: Commissioners briefly discussed the content of the report's draft, and made no changes to the initial 3 pages. Discussion also focused on the section on the proposed budget for 2027 community engagement, with suggestions made for the budget to be more authentically reflective of the activities that the commission has been doing. Through the commission members' deliberations, it was suggested that the 2027 budget include $7,000 for mailers, $2,000 for flyers, and $1,000 for general supplies, resulting in a total 2027 budget of $10,000. Commissioner Stussy moved to adopt that budget plan for the Annual Report, Commissioner Bekkedahl seconded, and the motion passed. Commissioner Bekkedahl asked that Goehner provide the CEC members a copy of the finalized Annual Report and budget before this material is relayed to the City Council at the end of August. Commissioner Norman said he could be available to personally present the CEC's Annual Report during the Sept. 1 or Sept. 15 City Council meetings, and Goehner said he would follow up with him about the scheduled date.

F – Other upcoming opportunities: Commissioner Carlberg asked Goehner for information about the current status of proposed project by the MODE campus that is currently going through a hearing review, and Goehner said he would research this and provide a follow-up through e-mail. Some commissioners also asked about the expiration dates of their current terms, and Goehner said he would research this and provide follow-ups through e-mail.

NEXT MEETING AGENDA ITEMS:

Discussion of CEC marketing calendar and selection of a subcommittee for its development.
Continuation of discussion of Sidewalk Master Plan public engagement.

ADJOURNMENT:

Commissioner Carlberg moved and Commissioner Stussy seconded to adjourn the meeting, and the commissioners voted to close the meeting at 7:05 p.m. The next regular meeting will be held on Sept. 16, 2026.