

FAIR & AFFORDABLE HOUSING COMMISSION



Randy Baukol
Commission Chair

~Meeting Minutes~
March 7, 2018

Ryan Cash
Staff Liaison

fahc@ci.moscow.id.us

208.883.7095

<http://www.ci.moscow.id.us/commissions/Pages/fair-housing.aspx>

The meeting was called to order at 5:45 PM.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Randy Baukol, Casey Holcomb-Hawkes, Rachel Laine, Jill Maxwell, Kirsten Miller, Linda Pike, Melanie Wolf.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Bruce Pitman

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Ryan Cash, Staff Liaison
Anne Zabala, Council Liaison

1. Approval of minutes from November 2nd, 2017

RESULT:	ACCEPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Holcomb
SECONDER:	Laine

Motion accepted by acclamation.

2. Receive February 1, 2018 Meeting Notes

RESULT:	ACCEPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Maxwell
SECONDER:	Miller

Motion accepted by acclamation.

3. Presentation of "Findings and Recommendations to Affordable Housing in Moscow" from Palouse Prairie Charter School Students and U of I Legal Aid Clinic

Students presented the results of their research which covered the history of events at Syringa Mobile Home Park and impact of its closure. They also presented a range of support organizations and potential solutions and their limitations for Syringa residents still in need of housing. Their recommendations included: 1) The County could apply to the state to create a housing authority in Latah county under the state statute outlining a lack of affordable housing; 2) all housing developers could be required to commit 15% of each development to affordable housing units or pay a fine to the county.

Holcomb asked whether the students were able to personally meet the residents or how their research allowed them to get to know so much about the residents. The teacher replied the students obtained their information from the UI Legal Aid clinic. Baukol cited Moscow Housing Trust data regarding a low inventory of affordable housing in Moscow. Maxwell asked if other counties in Idaho had housing authorities. Cash stated that some Idaho communities with affordable housing ordinances have been challenged in court. Baukol suggested more research be done on Housing Authorities. Holcomb said there are incentives for developers to participate in affordable housing and offered to provide information at a future meeting.

Baukol invited the remaining guests to the table to speak on any other issues pertaining to Syringa. Tim Nowell-Smith presented his interest in affordable, sustainable and environmentally friendly housing using Idaho lumber. Questions were raised about how many mobile home lots are available throughout the county. Lee Fruits said the animal situation at Syringa also needed to be discussed. Holcomb suggested that a Syringa task force be created or a special ad-hoc meeting be devoted to discussing Syringa. Recommended interested parties contact Leontina Hormel with any further questions on Syringa.

4. Introduction of Palouse Democratic Socialists of America

The group of college student volunteers presented their goals and strategies for tenant advocacy. They are working with the Tenants Union of Washington to put on an event this spring and provide support. Baukol suggested they attend the Intermountain Housing Fair on May 16. Pike offered to see if the Attorney General could give a presentation on tenant rights the next time he is in town. Laine suggested organizing something like the Latah County Health and Wellness Fair, but for housing, and that way people can access the resources they need.

5. Receive an update to Student Webinar Rental Fundamentals

ASUI representative was not present. Zabala said she helped the ASUI student get started but as a City Councilor she couldn't continue working the project. Baukol offered to follow-up, and also reported he had made contact with property managers and the Legal Clinic.

6. 50th Anniversary of the Fair Housing Act Celebration.

Holcomb and Laine volunteered to take the lead on the Housing Fair, including coordination of a poster competition and obtaining grant funds through Wells Fargo Bank. It is tentatively scheduled for the end of April, which is Fair Housing Month, and will include a broad range of housing-related providers and services.

7. Farmers Market Tables.

Cash will confirm the tabling dates and email to the Commission.

The meeting adjourned at 7:41 p.m.


Randy Baukol, Chair