

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION



Ken Faunce
Commission Chair

~Minutes~
July 16, 2019

James Fry
Staff Liaison

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<http://www.ci.moscow.id.us/commissions/Pages/human-rights.aspx>

The meeting was called to order.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Ken Faunce, Becky Tallent, Ari Carter, Jana Argersinger, Bruce Pitman, Steve Simmons, Jesse Martinez, Defne Yuksel

MEMBERS ABSENT: Meredith Metsker, Rula Awwad-Rafferty, Sandra Kelly, Erin Agidius, Elizabeth Stevens

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Tyson Berrett, Staff Liaison; Karen Potter, Deputy Clerk;

1. Approval of Minutes of June 18, 2019 (ACTION ITEM)

There was one change to agenda item 3, sentence 2:

- Faunce reported that since the last meeting, Tallent has asked Katie Blevins, a constitutional lawyer to present at a free speech / hate speech forum to address legal definitions and where the line is between the two.

Tallent moved to accept the minutes as corrected, seconded by Argersinger and the motion carried.

2. Review of Calendar (ACTION ITEM)

The calendar was reviewed and the following correction was made:

- The Pride Festival will be held on August 24, not August 13.

REPORTS

1. Latah Human Rights Task Force Report

The Task Force's monthly meeting will be held the last Thursday in July. The market meeting will be held next Tuesday. The Food Drive still has shifts available at Safeway and Rosauers. Fresh food donations for the food bank may be available from Farmers Market at closing and from Safeway and Rosauers.

2. HRC at the Market

The next HRC day at the Market is scheduled for Saturday, August 7; however, it may be moved to September. Faunce will let the Commission know.

3. HRC Report to City Council

The report to the City Council had a good response and went well.

4. Community Voice / Human Rights Issues

This effort is now called "Voices of Moscow." Boxes have been distributed to various locations at UI and throughout the community. Some responses have been collected and were distributed for Commissioners to review. There was discussion regarding additional sites for distribution around campus and downtown as well as noting locations where surveys are picked up. Yuksel has created an unpublished website. Faunce will talk to City Administration about the site and will also post information on the City of Moscow's Facebook page. Tallent will contact the Daily News to get a press release out.

5. Moscow High School Survey – Carter

The final report of the Moscow High School survey was distributed. Carter said there was possible plus or minus error of 5%. Affordable housing and mental health were common topics. Approximately 460 students participated in the survey. This information will be forwarded to the Task Force and Sustainability Environment Commission. Latah Recovery Center (LRC) has requested a copy as well.

6. Indigenous Peoples Day

Faunce will be meeting with Philip Stevens when Stevens returns from out of town regarding Indigenous Peoples Day activities.

7. Inclusive Communities Month Theme – Mental Health

Contact has been made with LRC and the Disability Action Center regarding activities for Inclusive Communities Month. September is also National Recovery Month. Mental health and drug addiction are closely related as those with mental health issues often self-medicate which can lead to drug addiction.

Activities include the following:

- September 7, Saturday: The LRC will celebrate their anniversary with an informational block party/ fair. The group will provide information on mental health and issues and snacks at the event.
- September 14, Saturday: Teen Day at the LRC. LRC host an informational day and open up their doors to teens and parents. The event will be advertised at the high school, and LRC will provide information for the school as well.

- September 21, Saturday: Balloons and Shoes. Using the sidewalk surrounding City Hall, a pair of shoes with an attached balloon will be on display for every person who has died as a result of mental illness or addiction within the previous month. The Third Street side will represent Idaho and the Washington Street side will represent Latah County. Information will also be available. This event will be held in the morning while community members are making their way to Farmers Market.
- End of September: Community Potluck

Sharlissa Davis, who is part of the National Alliance on Mental Illness and the Latah Alliance on Mental Illness, would like to be part of the event. Besides information, stereotypes and stigmas surrounding mental illness and drug addiction will be addressed. Volunteers will be needed for all events and resources will be pooled.

8. Pride Festival

Faunce will be contacting Commission members by email for signup to work and to set up the Festival booth. The next HRC meeting will be held before the event. Tallent will make rainbow cookies again this year.

9. Weaving Abundance on the Palouse (Poverty on the Palouse)

Highlights outlining activities by the group from the last meeting were reviewed:

- Working on a resource guide (in print and electronically) that can be used by community members
- Looking at ways to establish a central food hub for preparing, storing and processing foods.
- Working with Backyard Harvest to make more connections with fraternities and sororities for volunteers to pick fruit.
- Food Not Bombs group report
- Distribution of flyers to the schools and food bank on how to sign up for available programs.
- Addressing the stigma of signing up as “food insecure.” Also working with school district on this issue.
- Making a Facebook page.
- Working on a more in-depth blueprint to find what areas are suffering from food insecurity. More data is needed.

Their next meeting is September 19 at 5:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

10. Social Justice Forum: Free Speech / Hate Speech

The day and time for this event is to be determined. Faunce will be contacting City Administration to talk to them about tracking reported incidents and data as well as City-approved processes to track incidents that are not crimes.

11. Social Justice Forum: Stop the Hate Workshop

Agidius and Martinez will be presenting at this workshop and will be setting up a time and date.

12. Status of Pesticides in City Parks and Collaboration with Sustainable Environment Commission

There was no report.

13. Information from City Council – Councilmember Zabala.

Councilmember Zabala was ill and was not present at the meeting.

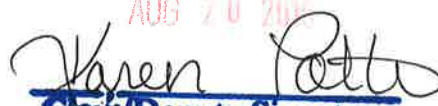
ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. This will be Ari Carter's, Moscow High School representative, last meeting. The Commission thanked him for all the work he has done. Defne Yuksel will be the new MHS representative.
- b. Deputy Clerk Potter will provide information about the Sheikh Award at the August meeting and will be in contact with the Sheikh family. The award ceremony will be held on a Thursday in November.
- c. Faunce will talk to City Administration about a variety of topics in addition to those mentioned previously including changing the high school seat to a voting position and cultural sensitivity training for City personnel. Anne is working on this from the City Council side.
- d. Faunce is writing a letter regarding the 28 state legislators who oppose diversity programs. He informed Commissioners that, if they are so inclined, they might also write letters as individuals to college presidents and state representatives.
- e. There was a vigil held in Pullman pertaining to child detention. There are individuals from Boise who are looking for contacts in Moscow and Coeur d'Alene regarding this effort. Carter will let the Commission know if he hears from anyone.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

Minutes Approved On

AUG 20 2019

Clerk/Deputy Signature