

# HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION



Ken Faunce  
Commission Chair

~Minutes~  
August 20, 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, Sandra Kelly, Jana Argersinger, Meredith Metsker, Bruce Pitman, Erin Agidius, Elizabeth Stevens, Jesse Martinez, Defne Yuksel

MEMBERS ABSENT: Steve Simmons, Rula Awwad-Rafferty

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: James Fry, Staff Liaison; Karen Potter, Deputy Clerk

## 1. Approval of Minutes of July 16, 2019 (ACTION ITEM)

Tallent moved to accept the minutes as written, seconded by Metsker and the motion carried.

## 2. Review of Calendar (ACTION ITEM)

The calendar was reviewed and the following events were added:

- Tentative: Tabling at the Moscow Co-op, date to be determined (Saturday in September), information about the Voices of Moscow project and promotion of Inclusive Communities Week. Yuksel will confirm a date with the Co-op and let the Commission know.
- Monthly Community Dinner at the 1912 Building, third Monday of each month

## 3. Inclusive Communities Month: Theme – Mental Health (ACTION ITEM)

Three events are tentatively scheduled for Inclusive Communities Month in September in conjunction with the Latah Recovery Center (LRC), Latah Alliance on Mental Illness and Disability Action Center.

1. Teen and Family Day at the LRC, Saturday, September 14. Ten tables will have information pertaining to mental health and addiction. The Moscow High School Human Rights Club will be conducting a student survey specific to mental health and mental illness. Results of this survey will be available for this event.
2. "The Opioid Crisis Hits Home," Saturday, September 21, 2019. The sidewalk closure permit for this event has been approved. Tables with information and a pair of shoes with

balloons attached to them and will be placed on the sidewalks by City Hall. There was discussion about using ribbons in place of balloons. These pairs of shoes represent Idaho opioid deaths in 2019 thus far in Latah County (6) and the State of Idaho (230). Four life-sized cutouts of people without faces will be on display as well. There will be information and resources.

3. Latah Recovery Festival at the Latah County Fairgrounds, September 28<sup>th</sup>. There will be music, speakers, tables, a chili cookoff and kids' activities.

Kelly moved to co-sponsor these activities with the Latah Recovery Center for a total cost of \$2,000.00:

- \$1,000 to the Latah Recovery Festival
- \$500 to the Teen and Family event
- \$500 to the Opioid Crisis Hits Home display.

The motion was seconded by Tallent and the motion carried.

Sponsorship will include food, flyers, brochures and activities. After payment, a balance of \$1783.00 will remain in the Human Rights Commission budget line allowing for food and the rental of the 1912 Center for the Inclusive Communities Potluck.

#### **4. Commission Survey Questions (ACTION ITEM)**

Commission surveys are conducted every other year and sent to random citizens. Two questions are requested from each commission. After discussion the following questions were submitted:

- Should Moscow be a welcoming community to people of color?

Yes / No / Don't Know

- What three pressing community issues would you like to have more information about: (check three)

Bullying, Racial Equity, Gender Equity, Sexual/Domestic Violence, Housing/Homelessness, Accessibility, Access to Healthcare, Religious Rights and Freedom, Gender Identity and Sexual Orientation, Wealth/Income Equality, Mental Health/Addiction Issues, Environmental Justice, Age Discrimination, Separation of Church and State.

Tallent moved to approve the above questions with wordsmithing, Argersinger seconded the motion and the motion carried. Staff Liaison Fry will contact City Administration to determine how and if UI students are included in the survey pool.

## **REPORTS**

### **1. Moscow Sister City Association.**

The Moscow Sister City Association is being revitalized. Moscow's sister city is Via el Carmen, Nicaragua. In the past, the organization was very active with trips, visits and scholarships. The Association would like to join with the Commission for activities such as hosting a table at the Indigenous People's Day event. The group is creating a newsletter and updating their website. The Association's annual meeting will be a potluck held at 2106 Orchard St., Moscow, on Sunday, August 25, at 6:00 p.m.

### **2. Latah Human Rights Task Force Update.**

The Task Force is working on Human Rights Day at the Market.

### **3. Moscow High School Seat – Voting.**

Jen Pfiffner, City Administration, is working with the City attorney to review City policies pertaining to voting for individuals under 18-years-old.

### **4. Training for City Staff.**

City staff receives training in cultural awareness and sexual harassment once a year.

### **5. Report System.**

The Human Rights Commission was made aware of a Moscow resident who felt racially discriminated against by a City staff member. Individuals who feel discriminated against should report incidents to City of Moscow Human Resources so Administration may investigate the situation and deal with it appropriately. Incidents may also be reported to the City Supervisor. If the incident is a crime, police will handle it. For non-crime incidents, Pfiffner is meeting with the City Attorney to create a process where these incidents can be reported. This process will be better publicized in the future. It is not known at this time if reports will be anonymous. Staff Liaison Fry added that the police department likes to talk to those who have experienced criminal incidents, rather than receive an anonymous report only. This provides an opportunity for a conversation and follow-up. Interactions of this nature remain confidential. An additional incident which could have been added to a report system is the racially-offensive postcard which was distributed in Moscow this summer.

The first step will be devising an approved reporting system. After that time, the Commission will decide on their involvement, i.e. whether a Commission member may talk to the reporting party so individual feels heard, etc.

### **6. Ismat and Mannan Sheikh Award.**

The press release has been published. Nominations are due by Wednesday, October 9. The Sheikh children have been contacted and a date will be selected soon.

### **7. HRC at the Market.**

This event will be held on Saturday, August 31.

**8. Voices of Moscow.**

Principal Perryman has agreed to get surveys into the high school. Teachers may distribute surveys rather than placing surveys and boxes in the school. Yuksel is working with City staff to add a link to the City website with survey information.

**9. Social Justice Forum: Art Show.**

Moscow Art Commissioner Megan Cherry agrees with the proposed Social Justice Forum Art Show. This event will go before the Moscow Arts Commission for approval.

**10. Indigenous Peoples Day.**

Faunce will be working with individuals pertaining to Indigenous Peoples Day activities.

**11. Social Justice Forum: Free Speech / Hate Speech Speaker.**

Katie Blevins has agreed to be the speaker for this forum. She will discuss free speech and hate speech and how hate speech can be freedom of speech. The Commission would like to hold this forum on Tuesday, October 22. This date will be confirmed at a later time. As an educational piece, there may also be a second part to this forum or a separate forum which will host a national speaker and address appropriate responses to hate speech. Martinez will explore other speakers.

**12. Social Justice Forum: Stop the Hate Workshop.**

Martinez and Agidius have chosen October 16<sup>th</sup> to present this workshop. A place and time are to be determined.

**13. Pride Festival.**

Volunteers are still needed for the HRC table at the Pride Festival this Saturday.

**14. Food Insecurity / Poverty on the Palouse Update.**

This group is working on a draft of the resource guide. The Facebook page is set up and they are working on the website. There will be a hard copy and an electronic copy of the guide. Grant opportunities are being explored. The next general meeting will be held on September 19 at 5:30 p.m., and the Steering Committee meeting will be held on September 9, at 12:00 p.m.

**15. Information from City Council – Councilmember Zabala.**

Councilmember Zabala was not present for the meeting.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no announcements.

**ADJOURN**

The meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

# Moscow Human Rights Commission

## Planning Calendar

|                                |                                                                  |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Sat., Sep 21, 2019, 8:00-12:00 | Inclusive Communities Month: Opioid Crisis Hits Home, City Hall  |
| Thur., Sep 26, 2019, 6:00 pm   | Inclusive Communities Potluck, 1912 Center Great Room            |
| Sat., Sep 28, 2019, 2:00-8:00  | Inclusive Communities Month: Recovery Festival, Fairgrounds      |
| Mon., Oct 14, 2019 5:00 pm     | Indigenous People's Day Event, Friendship Square                 |
| Tues., Oct 15, 2019, 4:00 pm   | Monthly Meeting-City Hall: 1 <sup>st</sup> Floor Conference Room |
| Wed., Oct 16, 2019, 7:00 pm    | Stop the Hate Workshop, Council Chambers, City Hall              |
| Tue., Oct 22, 2019, 7:00 pm    | Free Speech/Hate Speech, City Council Chambers, City Hall        |
| Thur., Nov 14, 2019, 6:00 pm   | Ismat and Mannan Sheikh Award, 1912 Center                       |
| Tues., Nov 19, 2019, 4:00 pm   | Monthly Meeting-City Hall: 1 <sup>st</sup> Floor Conference Room |
| Tues., Dec 17, 2019, 4:00 pm   | Monthly Meeting-City Hall: 1 <sup>st</sup> Floor Conference Room |