

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION



Ken Faunce
Commission Chair

~Minutes~
September 17, 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, Defne Yuksel, Steve Simmons, Erin Agidius, Jesse Martinez

MEMBERS ABSENT: Bruce Pitman, Meredith Metsker, Jana Argersinger, Rula Awwad-Rafferty, Elizabeth Stevens

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: James Fry Jr., Staff Liaison; Anne Zabala, City Council Liaison; Karen Potter, Deputy Clerk; Joann Muneta, ex-officio

1. Approval of Minutes of August 20, 2019.

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

2. Review of Calendar.

The calendar was reviewed and the following changes/additions were made:

- Inclusive Communities Month Potluck has been changed to Thursday, October 3.
- Martin Luther King Breakfast, Saturday, January 18, 2020
- ACLU Activist Academy, more information as available.

REPORTS

1. Latah Human Rights Task Force Report

The Task Force took part in the Pride Festival by hosting a booth and participating in the march. Human Rights Day at the Market was held on September 7th. The theme was voting rights. The League of Women Voters registered voters at the event. The MLK Art and Essay topic will be voting rights.

2. High School Seat Voting

City Administration and the City Attorney are working on changing the high school seat from a non-voting to a voting member. This item will go before the City Council if the change is feasible.

3. Reporting System

Jen Pfiffner, City Administration, is working to set up a system for reporting incidents of bias and discrimination. An individual reporting an issue may choose to be identified or remain anonymous.

4. Ismat and Mannan Sheikh Award

The award presentation has been scheduled for Thursday, November 14, at 7 p.m. in the 1912 Center's Great Room. There have been no nominations received to date. Those who have been nominated and were not chosen previously may be resubmitted for consideration for this year's award.

5. Inclusive Communities Month – Theme: Mental Health

The Teen and Family Day at the Latah Recovery Center went well and had a very good turnout. This Saturday is the "Opioid Crisis Hits Home" event. PACT EMS will be in the City Hall parking lot to talk about NARCAN from 8 a.m. until noon. The Recovery Festival will also be held at the Latah County Fairgrounds this Saturday. There will be a band, bouncy castle, and other activities.

6. Voices of Moscow

Yuksel participated in a radio interview and hosted a table at the Moscow Food Co-op for the Voices of Moscow project. Surveys will be distributed at Moscow High School. There are more surveys coming in from returning UI students. Jen Pfiffner is checking into creating an electronic version of the survey available on the website.

7. Future Social Justice Forum: Art Show

The Moscow Arts Commission has been contacted about this forum, and the HRC is waiting on word from them.

8. Indigenous Peoples Day

A meeting is planned to address activities for Indigenous Peoples Day. The Task Force would like to partner with the Commission on this project and get into the schools. The Moscow Sister City Association would like to be involved with the Commission for events on this day as well.

9. Social Justice Forum: Free Speech/Hate Speech

This forum will be held on October 22 at 7:00 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers. Katie Blevins will be speaking about free speech and hate speech and where they collide. She will provide a question and answer session. Tallent will be creating a press release and a Facebook event for the forum. Some UI Faculty will be sending their students.

10. Social Justice Forum: Stop the Hate Workshop

This event will be held on Wednesday, October 16th. A flyer will be created for Facebook, the listserve and for other advertising.

11. Pride Festival

The Festival went well and there was a large attendance for the march. More volunteers are needed for future festivals.

12. Food Insecurity / Poverty on the Palouse Update

This group will be connecting with the Idaho Food Bank so when local food banks are low, the Idaho Food Bank will bring in food. Café Artista has a “suspended coffee program” and is hoping other businesses will adopt the program as well. When a customer pays for coffee, they may donate a drink to a customer who may not be able to afford one. There is a logo contest for Weaving Abundance on the Palouse. More steering committee members are needed. This group will also be setting up training for non-profits.

13. Information from City Council – Councilmember Zabala

Zabala reported a WSU colleague encountered racial discrimination at a Moscow gas station by another individual who yelled racial slurs. Faunce stated that once a reporting system is in place it will help to record how often these incidences take place, where they happen, and will give individuals who encounter discrimination an opportunity to be heard.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Commission Surveys. These surveys do not get mailed to students in the dorms because most pertain to City services. Surveys may be delivered to students living off campus as the surveys are random.
2. The UI Society of Professional Journalists would like to partner with the Commission. This is an international organization of journalists who are participating in a service project. This item will be on the October’s meeting agenda.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

Minutes Approved On

OCT 13 2019
Karen Pollock
Chair/Deputy Signature