

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION



Ken Faunce
Commission Chair

~Minutes~
October 15, 2019

James Fry
Staff Liaison

hrc@ci.moscow.id.us

208.883.7064

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

The meeting was called to order.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Ken Faunce, Becky Tallent, Defne Yuksel, Jana Argersinger, Meredith Metsker, Bruce Pitman, Steve Simmons, Erin Agidius, Jesse Martinez

MEMBERS ABSENT: Sandra Kelly, Rula Awwad-Rafferty, Elizabeth Stevens

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: James Fry Jr., Staff Liaison; Anne Zabala, City Council Liaison; Karen Potter, Deputy Clerk; Alexandra Brizee, President of the UI Society of Professional Journalists

1. Approval of Minutes of September 17, 2019.

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

2. Review of Calendar.

There was one change on the calendar: the Ismat and Mannan Sheikh Award Ceremony held on November 14th will begin at 7:00 p.m.

3. Proposed Partnership with University of Idaho Society of Professional Journalists.

Alexandra Brizee, President of the UI Society of Professional Journalists, asked the Commission to partner with the UI Society of Professional Journalists on two individual projects:

- Free Speech/Hate Speech Workshop
- A year-long project for UI students to help regional journalists understand how to cover race and immigration during the 2020 election. The students will be creating materials and a website and contacting other media organizations. The Commission will help answer students' questions.

Argersinger moved to co-sponsor the Free Speech/Hate Speech Workshop to be held on October 22, 2019. The motion was seconded by Simmons and the motion carried.

Argersinger moved to co-sponsor the year-long project for UI Society of Professional Journalists to help regional journalists understand how to cover race and immigration during elections. The motion was seconded by Simmons and the motion carried.

REPORTS

1. Latah Human Rights Task Force Report.

The Task Force is continuing planning for the Martin Luther King Breakfast.

2. High School Seat Voting.

City Administration is working on the legal ramifications of changing the high school seat to a voting seat.

3. Reporting System

City Administration is in the process of creating a reporting system for incidents of discrimination and racism.

4. Ismat and Mannan Sheikh Award.

Nomination letters for two individuals for the Community Unity Award were discussed. An individual was selected and will be recommended to Mayor Lambert.

5. Inclusive Communities Month – Theme: Mental Health

The festival on mental health and recovery was held. A small group attended the community potluck. There were good conversations.

6. Voices of Moscow.

The website will be published soon. Yuksel is still waiting to hear from Mr. Perryman about distribution of surveys at Moscow High School which need to be made before the end of the month. Yuksel would like to stop circulating surveys by the end of the year. Submissions are still coming in from UI students.

7. Future Social Justice Forum: Art Show

There was no update available.

8. Indigenous Peoples Day

Approximately 60 people attended. There were drummers and singers who answered questions and explained history. It was an interactive event with dancing. Moscow's Sister City from Nicaragua brought information to the event.

9. Social Justice Forum: Free Speech/Hate Speech

This Social Justice Forum will be held on Tuesday, October 22, at 7:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers with Katie Blevins speaking. She will present for 45 minutes and then provide a question and answer session.

10. Social Justice Forum: Stop the Hate Workshop

The handouts for this event have been adapted from a campus format to more of a community format. Examples used during the workshop will be community-focused as well. Because the City's reporting system is not yet in place, incidents of hate or discrimination may be emailed to Chief Fry at jfry@ci.moscow.id.us or the Commission at hrc@ci.moscow.id.us.

11. Food Insecurity / Poverty on the Palouse Update.

The following update was provided:

- A draft of the Resource Guide has been made.
- The Weaving Abundance on the Palouse website is being developed and the resource guide will be accessible on it.
- A "Purposity" app is currently being used by the Moscow School District for students in need. Counselors post student needs on the app and people may donate anonymously to meet that need. Weaving Abundance would like to get a similar app for those who need help in the community.
- The group would like to expand the suspended coffee idea to other businesses in the community. Café Artista and Humble Burger are currently participating.
- A food recovery guide for caterers and restaurants who want to share leftovers is being explored. These businesses can call and ask for leftover food from events to be distributed to those who need it.
- There is work on a "Little Free Garden" project much like the "Little Free Library" boxes around town. These units would house education and resources such as tools and seeds to grow food. Weaving Abundance is working with the UI Se ed and Master Gardeners programs to teach low income people how to garden.
- The next general meeting will be December 19 at 5:30 p.m.in the City Council Chambers.

12. Information from City Council – Councilmember Zabala

There was no report.

ANNOUCEMENTS

1. Happy to Chat Bench. Argersinger mentioned a "Happy to Chat" bench effort for Moscow as they have in England. These designated benches are for people to sit on when they would like to talk with others.
2. There was discussion about the role of a Commissioner in regard to speaking out politically. A commissioner may speak as an individual but not as a part of the Commission. It is important to be clear and not to cross lines.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.