

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION



Ken Faunce
Commission Chair

~Minutes~
November 19, 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: Becky Tallent, Sandra Kelly, Jana Argersinger, Meredith Metsker, Bruce Pitman, Steve Simmons, Erin Agidius, Jesse Martinez

MEMBERS ABSENT: Ken Faunce, Defne Yuksel, Rula Awwad-Rafferty, Elizabeth Stevens

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

Vice Chair Tallent conducted the meeting in Faunce's absence.

1. Approval of Minutes of October 15, 2019.

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

2. Review of Calendar.

The calendar was reviewed and there were no changes.

Minutes Approved On

REPORTS

1. Latah Human Rights Task Force Report.

There was no report.

2. High School Seat Voting.

There was no report.

3. Reporting System.

The Reporting System is being addressed by Jen Pfiffner.

4. Ismat and Mannan Sheikh Award.

Kay Keskinen was the 2019 Sheikh Community Unity Award winner. She was unable to attend the ceremony so Jenny Kostroff accepted the award for her which included a gift card. Mahmood Sheikh and his family travelled from Boise to attend. A plaque with Kay's name was engraved for City Hall and an engraved plate will be added to the East City Park Sheikh Award Memorial Rock, close to where Kay plays horseshoes frequently.

DEC 17 2019
Karen Potter
Clerk/Deputy Signature

5. Voices of Moscow.

There was no update.

6. Future Social Justice Forum: Art Show.

Due to the Third Street Gallery's busy schedule, it will be 1-1 ½ years before an art show can be held there. The proposed show will require approval by the Moscow Arts Commission. Once approved, the HRC can move forward.

7. Social Justice Forum: Free Speech/Hate Speech.

About 30 people attended the forum. It was well received and there were many questions. Dr. Blevins did a great job defining free speech and hate speech. She is available for other events if needed.

8. Social Justice Forum: Stop the Hate Workshop.

This were a few who attended this workshop. It will be rescheduled for the spring when the Reporting System has been developed and can be used as a resource.

9. Food Insecurity / Poverty on the Palouse Update.

A hard copy of a Resource Guide has been distributed. If an online link to a digital copy is available, it will be emailed to Commission members.

10. Information from City Council – Councilmember Zabala.

Councilmember Zabala is happy to help with the development of the Reporting System.

ANNOUCEMENTS

1. The Presbyterian, Methodist and United Churches held a University of Idaho Common read entitled, "There, There." The Nez Perce tribe was invited, and Tallent was a speaker. This provided an opportunity for vital community conversations about hard topics. An event on climate change has also been held, and the three churches are hoping to hold another event in the spring. These events are open to the public.

2. There is an accessibility issue with a UI sidewalk on Sweet Avenue. There are cracks that are difficult to navigate, especially when walking to the Intermodal Transit Center. The fraternity close to the sidewalk maintains the snow removal, and the City is responsible for sidewalk repair.

3. Commissioners were asked to be thinking of social justice forums for the spring. Spring forums usually occur in February or early March. It was suggested that a different avenue for forums be explored due to low attendance in the past and possibly linking a future event with the Farmers Market.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 4:22 p.m.