

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION



Ken Faunce
Commission Chair

~Minutes~
April 17, 2018

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, Sandra Kelly, Steve Simmons, Ari Carter, Bruce Pitman, Cassie Seubert, Sophia Eck, Elizabeth Stevens

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jana Argersinger, Meredith Metsker, Rula Awwad-Rafferty, Erin Agidius

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: James Fry, Staff Liaison; Jim Boland, City Council Liaison; Karen Potter, Deputy Clark; Joann Muneta, ex-officio

1. Approval of Minutes of March 20, 2018.

The minutes were reviewed. There was one correction--Carter's name will be listed once in the "Members Present" section. Tallent moved to accept the minutes as amended, seconded by Kelly and the motion carried.

2. Review of Calendar.

The calendar was reviewed and the following events were added:

- Pride March and Festival, August 25
- Human Rights Day at the Market, September 8
- Great Moscow Food Drive, August 4
- Human Rights Commission tabling events at the Market, June 16 and August 18
- "Me Too Moscow, Noon, April 25, Borah Theatre
- Primary Candidate Forum, League of Women Voters, April 25, 7:00 p.m., Latah County Fairgrounds

Ken will add these items to the calendar and resend by email.

3. Latah Human Rights Task Force Report.

The Latah Human Rights Task Force is in the process of selecting a topic for Human Rights Day at the Market as well as working on the budget for the next fiscal year.

4. Northwest Coalition for Human Rights Report.

Coalition progress continues and there is nothing to report.

5. Finding the Center Report.

The committee is hoping to have a meeting next week when Toney Driver is available. He will be skyped or will call in.

6. HRC at the Market Sign Up.

Community tabling was discussed. The 1.5 hour shifts will run from 8:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The Commission would like two members for each shift. Becky signed up for the opening shift and Sandra requested a shift at 10:00 a.m. A signup sheet showing available time slots will be sent by email.

7. Moscow Food Co-op Report.

The movie "Food Chains" was shown on April 10th and focused on farm workers and tomatoes which are distributed to fast food restaurants and markets. There were speakers and a question and answer session following the movie. About 30 people attended. Wendy's restaurants have failed to follow the Fair Food Act and UI students will be marching from the UI Teaching Learning Center in the Commons to Wendy's to demonstrate. Ken will add this event to the calendar. The UI Office of Multicultural Affairs supports this effort.

8. Syringa Mobile Home Park Report.

There will be two events to support Syringa Park residents:

- Benefit concert, Unitarian Universalist Church, May 18th
- Renaissance Fair booth, sponsored by the Unitarian Universalist Church, May 5th. All proceeds go to the Syringa relief fund.

9. Pesticides in the City of Moscow.

City survey results from the Sustainable Environment Commission were discussed. The survey showed more people supported pesticide-free parks and/or buffer zones around children's playgrounds than those who did not.

10. Food Insecurity in Moscow Report.

A steering committee of seven individuals has been formed and is moving forward. Space and volunteers have been provided for a mobile operation to come to Moscow once a month. A refrigerated truck with dairy, produce and meat will be located in a parking lot close to campus and will distribute food. The Interfaith Association will be represented on the steering committee. These efforts are moving toward establishing a food bank in Moscow.

11. HRC Proposed Budget for 2019.

A 2019 proposed budget of \$6,000 has been submitted to James Fry and Mayor Lambert. This is the usual amount requested. There is approximately \$4,000 remaining to be used for the Commission's larger events which are planned for this summer and preparations for the Finding the Center Conference.

12. City Commission Survey Results.

The City Commission Survey results were discussed. Results showed the top four issues the Human Rights Commission should address are:

- 🏠 Housing/Homelessness 56%
- Poverty 51%
- Access to Healthcare 47%
- Bullying 45%

There were 1,200 surveys sent out and 27% responded. There was discussion regarding how the Commission might bring awareness to the Palouse regarding these interconnected issues. The root causes could be addressed. Other issues such as stopping the heroin epidemic and how it effects the homeless might also be dealt with as well. An education portion could be offered. It was suggested the Commission host a BookPeople event and have a common read, such as "Dreamland" which deals with the opioid epidemic in the United States. Portions of the book could be read at an event. This would open up discussion for what is happening with the drug problem in Moscow. The Commission could also collaborate with the Recovery Center.

13. Service to Commission Awards.

An email was sent out regarding the City of Moscow Service to Commission Awards. Ken will forward this email to Commission members. Commissioners can nominate members of their commission who have gone above and beyond. Three awards are given by the City. A simplified form is now available online.

Faunce received information about a Commission Member training session scheduled for May. Topics covered will be types of commissions, responsibilities, minutes, etc.

14. Future Social Justice Forums.

Commission members were asked to start thinking about future social justice forums which could be hosted by the Commission.

15. Racial Equality and Inclusive Community Week.

Racial Equality and Inclusive Community week is currently is a month-long effort with five events. The theme this year will be homelessness/poverty. The suggested events were as follows:

- Open house for the organizations who deal with homeless individuals to present volunteer opportunities as well as address the needs of those who care for homeless individuals. There is pain for those on the front lines in not knowing how effective efforts are and if needs are really being met.
- Food, clothing or money donations at an event.

- Outreach and flyers to impoverished areas of Moscow to let them know of services.
- Community potluck.
- Finding the Center Conference.

The community read of the book, "Dreamland" will be a separate Social Justice Forum. Passages will be read and discussed. The book is 384 pages. The Forum will be held after Racial Equality and Inclusive Community activities and before the holidays. The opioid crisis leads to more poverty/homelessness, health issues, violence and abuse and is in line with the Commission's mission.

Faunce asked attendees to fine tune these events, work on a subtitle for the theme, and begin reading Dreamland.

16. Announcements/Other Business.

a. Faunce thanked Carter for his good work with the "March for Our Lives" event. There will be a walkout at the high school on Friday. Carter said MHS students are making contact with other students around the state and calling legislators regarding gun issues.

b. Simmons stated Idaho voter registration is misleading. There needs to be education regarding the registration process. Idahoans may register at the polls. Identification is not required; however, an affidavit must be signed.

Adjournment.

The meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

Minutes Approved On

JUN 19 2018

Clerk/Deputy Signature

NOTICE: Moscow City Council Commission meetings can be televised, videotaped and/or recorded. Individuals attending the meeting who require special assistance to accommodate physical, hearing, or other impairments, please contact the City Clerk, at (208) 883-7015 or TDD 883-7019, as soon as possible so that arrangements may be made.