

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION



Ken Faunce
Commission Chair

~Minutes~
June 19, 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, Meredith Metsker, Bruce Pitman, Rula Awwad-Rafferty, Cassie Seubert

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jana Argersinger, Erin Agidius, Sophia Eck, Elizabeth Stevens

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Cynthia Mika; Christine Gilmore, Kenworthy Executive Director; Casey Green, Acting Staff Liaison; Karen Potter, Deputy Clerk; Joann Muneta, ex-officio

1. Approval of Minutes of April 17, 2018 Meeting.

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

2. Approval of Meeting Notes of May 15, 2018 Meeting.

The meeting notes were reviewed. The title "Minutes" will be corrected to read "Meeting Notes" as there was not a quorum present.

3. Review of Calendar.

The calendar was reviewed and the following events were added:

- Monday, July 16, 7:00 p.m., HRC presentation to the Mayor and City Council
- Saturday, June 30, Walk for Reuniting Families. This event is in the preliminary planning stages. Kelly will email with additional details.
- Wednesday, June 20, 9:30-10:30 a.m., UI Commons Rural Room, Suicide Prevention training

There was discussion regarding possible participation in Paloosafest. It was noted students are often overwhelmed at the event and HRC Day at the Market provides a more relaxed atmosphere and more exposure for the Commission.

4. Latah Human Rights Task Force Report.

The Task Force is getting ready for the Great Moscow Food Drive which will be co-sponsored with the HRC. Volunteers are needed and a signup sheet was circulated. The Task Force has been working on the MLK Art and Essay contest topics which will be poverty, wealth and equality. Teachers will be contacted. The Task Force Market Day will be September 8th and the theme will be income and equality. The Task Force is looking for ideas for children's activities. The first \$500 donated to the food drive goes to the summer backpack program. School district grants cover food needed during the regular

school year. There is also efforts by the food drive and Poverty on the Palouse to get more produce to families. The Task Force donated \$500 to the Syringa Mobile Home Fund.

5. Northwest Coalition for Human Rights Report.

The work to revive the Coalition is progressing.

6. Finding the Center Report.

Toney Driver, Muneta, Carter and Faunce met. The group is still working on speakers and workshop leaders. There is a 90% possibility that Angela Simms will be speaking. A native speaker or a couple will be asked to present workshops. Ken has eight names of native speakers from Pat Rathmann. There is a possibility for a third speaker from the Southern Poverty Law Center or the Wassmuth Center for Human Rights. Once speaker arrangements have been finalized, advertising and fund raising can begin. The theme for the conference is “essential conversations” and the need to have more of them.

7. HRC at the Market Report.

The event went well. The booth was taken down early due to rain. A dozen people signed up to receive HRC event notifications. The next HRC at the Market event will be held August 18.

8. Syringa Mobile Home Park Report.

Residents who have not moved out received an extension. Out houses and water have been taken to the mobile home park. There have been fundraising activities to help the residents with moving and housing expenses. Volunteers helped a resident move this week on very short notice. People want to help but they don't know what to do. There are still a few residents living at the park.

9. Pesticides in the City of Moscow Parks.

There was no report at this time.

10. Food Insecurity in Moscow Report.

Stevens was out of town for the meeting. She has been involved in the Poor Peoples Campaign by participating in a protest with other ministers in the Northwest. The purpose of the arrest was to bring attention to poverty in the cities. This is a national campaign. There may be a Poor Peoples Campaign event at the Idaho State Capital where the steps to the Capital Building may be blocked.

11. Future Social Justice Forums.

A future social justice forum has been scheduled and will be dealing with human rights and opioid addiction. The Latah Recovery Center and BookPeople will collaborate with the Commission for the event. There is no date set yet. Leaders will read excerpts from the book, “Dreamland” at BookPeople and evoke discussion about issues outlined in the book. This is an interesting book that covers many issues. The police department will be asked to read an excerpt. Arrangements will be finalized with BookPeople for the event.

Another possible social justice regarding the Kenworthy and stage accessibility may be considered. This item will be revisited after Awward-Rafferty, Kelly, Tallent and the Kenworthy's Executive Director meet.

12. Racial Equality and Inclusive Community Month.

The theme of this month will be poverty. One aspect of the poverty issue will be detailed each week. The following events were discussed:

- Resource Fair. Groups that deal with poverty will showcase resources and will provide an opportunity to see what people need and a chance for people to talk with each other. This will be a public event and will bring attention to the issue. Sojourners and St. Vincent de Paul have been contacted. Suggestions for other contacts included Backyard Harvest, Family Promise, and PCEI.
- Human Rights Day at the Market.
- Community Potluck at the 1912. There are no weekends available at the 1912 Center in September and it was agreed a week night would work well. Faunce will check with the 1912 to see if an evening is available. It was suggested that packets of resources (such as pamphlets and posters) be gathered together to pass out to attendees as well as materials provided on how to pick produce and how to grow a garden. Landscape and agriculture students might help with this.

It was suggested the theme's name be changed so a stigma/separation/distinction between people would not be created. There was discussion. Commission members will further discuss the theme and title at the next meeting. St. Vincent de Paul is interested in having some of their clients talk about their lives and experiences.

13. Announcements/Other Business.

a. Christine Gilmore, Executive Director of the Kenworthy, is working on a project to bring accessibility to the Kenworthy stage with a portable stage lift. She is working with Disability Action Center (DAC) to raise funds for the stage. Approximately \$20,000 is needed and it could be used as a "Moscow community stage lift" for the Kenworthy and for various community events such as Jazz Fest, etc. The lift could also be used to hoist equipment. There has been several fundraising efforts and Gilmore asked for more ideas. The Commission suggested the following:

- A targeted campaign to bring awareness to the project and how the lift can benefit the community.
- Surveys for business owners or managers to share efforts to procure the stage.
- Fund raisers such as a dance and trivia event.
- Future social justice forum on inclusion and disabilities.

The HRC cannot donate but can sponsor and defray costs for events. Tallent, Awwad-Rafferty, Kelly and Gilmore will meet.

b. Simmons would like the lack of affordable housing in Moscow to be addressed. There was discussion. It was suggested that a joint commission meeting take place between the Fair Housing Commission and the HRC.

c. Metsker's friend is going to Texas in regard to the family separation issue. There is fund raising for legal services and for people to travel to help with separated families.

d. The commission will be planning events for Indigenous Peoples' Day. This item will be on future agendas. There will be communication with the University of Idaho so activities are not duplicated with the Commission's efforts.

Adjournment.

The meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

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