

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION



Ken Faunce
Commission Chair

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~Minutes~
July 17, 2018

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, Steve Simmons, Ari Carter, Jana Argersinger, Bruce Pitman, Elizabeth Stevens

MEMBERS ABSENT: Meredith Metsker, Rula Awwad-Rafferty, Erin Agidius, Cassie Seubert, Sophia Eck, Sandra Kelly

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: James Fry, Staff Liaison; Jim Bolland, City Council Liaison; Karen Potter, Deputy Clerk

1. Approval of Minutes of June 19, 2017 Meeting.

The minutes were reviewed with the following changes:

- Removal of duplicate name "Steve Simmons" from attendance list.
- The contact for the Finding the Center Conference speakers was "Pat Rathmann."

Tallent moved to accept the minutes as amended, seconded by Pitman and the motion carried.

2. Review of Calendar.

The calendar was reviewed and there were no changes.

3. Latah Human Rights Task Force Report.

The Task Force discussed Human Rights Day at the Market which will highlight income and inequality. A poster will be created and information presented. The Task Force is also working on Art and Essay prompts for the contest.

4. Northwest Coalition for Human Rights Report.

The email list has been cleaned up and an email was sent to all members regarding:

- The website which will be up soon.
- Saving the date for Finding the Center Conference.
- The upcoming newsletter.

This email will arrive in inboxes as coming from the "NW Coalition of Human Rights."

5. Finding the Center Report.

There has not been a meeting recently. One speaker and a workshop have been scheduled. Two more workshop leaders for small presentations are needed. The Wassmuth Center will be holding a large fundraiser on the Friday before the event and will not be able to send a speaker. The Southern Poverty Law Center is also very busy and unable to provide a speaker. Faunce asked anyone who knows of a speaker to contact him.

6. Syringa Mobile Home Park Report.

There have been articles in the newspaper about cleanup and the situation with residents at the park. Most of the residents have moved out. A couple of the trailers have been moved to Stadium Way. Some former residents are living in RV's. Some residents are still trying to secure permanent housing. There has been looting and a resident's pickup was recently stolen. Many neighbors and other individuals helped with efforts to locate it.

7. Pesticides in the City of Moscow.

There was no report.

8. Food Insecurity in Moscow Report.

This month's meeting was cancelled due to attendee availability. The next meeting will be August 16th in the City Council Chambers. A member from the Idaho Hunger Task Force will be speaking. The steering committee is doing an excellent job and efforts are moving forward. It has been reported that Moscow was going to get a food truck and help with food distribution but this has not been confirmed.

9. Future Social Justice Forums.

Book People will host a book reading event. The date is yet to be determined.

10. Racial Equality and Inclusive Community Week.

The potluck is scheduled for Thursday, Sept. 27, at 6:00 p.m. Faunce has been in contact with St. Vincent de Paul's and Community Action Center. These organizations identified three problems areas in the community which need to be addressed:

1. Housing. Suggested partnering with the City of Moscow Fair and Affordable Housing Commission and Habitat for Humanity.
2. Employment. Training and procuring jobs to provide income.
3. Energy. The issue of elevating high energy bills which are a drain on people in community.

There was discussion and the following ideas were presented:

- HRC could be the point of contact to bring the partners together. The goal of the effort is to be a hub of some kind for all resources.
- Hosting a Resource Fair and a workshop later in the month on specific topics.
- Partnering for grants to make energy improvements for home owners and renters. Tallent is familiar with Oklahoma energy efficiency programs and will check with her contacts.
- Distributing information to people Community Action Center, Habitat for Humanity, Family Promise, and St. Vincent de Paul who are in direct contact with those in need.
- Join the Centers at UI and WSU for workshops in resume writing.
- Contacting Christine Fry from Clearwater Economic Development Association regarding the shortage of people for manufacturing jobs in the community.

- Family Promise has a brief curriculum on teaching budget skills for living.
- Chief will bring pamphlets to next HRC meeting regarding Idaho housing costs, how much a person needs if single or married for housing, and average and minimum wages.
- Possible legal aid, legal options, and legal rights

The following commissioners will research each topic:

- Energy: Tallent
- Housing: Pitman
- Unemployment: Simmons

Stevens is willing to work on a resource list to provide a virtual resource fair online in addition to a regular resource fair. Commissioners were asked to put together a list of resources from different groups.

11. Portable Stage Lift for the Kenworthy.

There will be a dance with bands in October as a fundraiser. Businesses will donate.

12. Indigenous Peoples' Day Events.

Faunce will contact Yolanda Bisbee, UI Tribal Liaison Officer, regarding activities for this day. Possible activities may include:

- Each tribe speak at Friendship Square.
- Tribal members available for questions.
- Storytelling.
- Drum center.

Minutes Approved On

AUG 21 2018

Karen Sotter
Clerk/Deputy Signature

Tallent will talk to Nez Perce and Coeur d'Alene nations about activities.

13. Announcements/Other Business.

- a. Argersinger would like to talk about possible events to support healthcare and Medicaid expansion at the next meeting.
- b. Add the Words Idaho is taking a full hiatus and revamping and renaming their organization.
- c. Request by Simmons for Metsker for discussion regarding declaring Election Day as a City holiday at next month's meeting. Other cities are doing this.
- d. There will be a table at the Pride Festival. Faunce will be sending out a signup sheet.
- e. The signup sheet for HRC at the Market will be sent out soon.

Adjournment.

The meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

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