

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION



Ken Faunce
Commission Chair

~Minutes~
August 21, 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, Sandra Kelly, Ari Carter, Jana Argersinger, Meredith Metsker, Steve Simmons, Rula Awwad-Rafferty

MEMBERS ABSENT: Becky Tallent, Bruce Pitman, Erin Agidius, Cassie Seubert, Sophia Eck, Elizabeth Stevens

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Guests Carly Lilly and George Skandalos; James Fry, Staff Liaison; Jim Boland, City Council Liaison; Karen Potter, Deputy Clerk; Joann Muneta, ex-officio.

1. Approval of Minutes of July 17, 2018.

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

2. Review of Calendar.

The calendar was received and the following events were added:

Thursday, September 6, 2018, 7:30 p.m.	Movie, "Inequality for All," Kenworthy
Monday, September 10, 2018, 7:00 p.m.	Common Read, "Educated: A Memoir"
Thursday, September 23, 2018, 7 p.m.	Movie, "Gotts Point," Kenworthy
Sunday, August 26, 2018, 1:00 p.m.	Fair Equal Housing Rights Presentation, 1912 Center

3. Latah Human Rights Task Force Report.

The Task Force thanked those who helped with the Great Food Drive. Donations made at tables generated \$750 and another \$425 was received through the mail. Contributions totaled \$1175.00. Many food items were also donated. The Task Force has been working on Human Rights Day at the Market scheduled for September 8th. There will be children's activities and a display board with statistics on wealth and inequality.

4. Northwest Coalition for Human Rights Report.

The website has been launched. The previous website which was maintained by the University of Idaho is still available but has not been updated since 2012 or 2013. Those wishing to access the new website should search by the full name of the coalition. Coalition initials used in a search will direct the user to the old site. An attempt will be made to extract archival information from the outdated site.

5. Finding the Center Conference Report.

The Idaho Coalition against Sexual and Domestic Violence has been contacted for another speaker and workshop leader for the conference. Vonda Bybee and Elliot Moffett, from Nez Perce, are willing to speak and present workshops. As soon as speakers are confirmed, flyers and posters will be created and the event will be posted on the internet. Registration will be available on the website as well.

6. ACLU Mural – Moscow Hotel.

Carly Lilly and George Skandalos, new owners of the Moscow Hotel, presented their plan for a mural on the north side of the hotel to commemorate the ACLU's 25-year anniversary. They are interested in enlisting an artist with ties to the area to help incorporate the imagery of the Palouse while maintaining the ACLU's mission statement. Lilly asked for an HRC Commissioner to participate on a subcommittee for the project. Interested Commissioners will notify Faunce. There has been \$6,000 raised thus far. There is an \$8,000-\$12,000 gap in finances. A plaque will be placed on the mural with the name of the piece, the artist's statement, and names of individual and/or group donors. It was suggested the Historic Preservation Commission and the Idaho Arts and Humanities Council also be contacted. The Commission may join with the Arts Commission in this effort. The new owners have met with architects and structural engineers and the Garden Lounge is currently not ADA compliant. Awwad-Rafferty offered assistance with this matter. Lilly will send emails and keep the Commission updated.

7. ADA Improvements to East City Park.

Work has begun on the wheelchair accessible swing (donated by the Buddy Club) at East City Park. The ramp to the picnic area is complete.

8. Human Rights Commission Day At the Market.

The HRC Day at the Market did not take place due to a mix up with the scheduling of a table at the Farmers Market office. The office confused the Task Force's Human Rights Day at the Market event (scheduled September 8) with the Commission's Day at the Market which was scheduled for August 18, 2018.

9. Pride Festival.

The Pride Festival and Parade are scheduled for Saturday. Some have signed up for the HRC table and booth; more are needed. Set up will begin at 9:30 a.m. Weeks offered to help. Those participating in the march will gather at 11:30 a.m. at City Hall.

10. Syringa Mobile Home Park Report.

There are four individuals left at Syringa. One of the individuals will be leaving this weekend.

11. Portable Stage Lift For The Kenworthy Theatre.

Fund raising is underway for the portable stage lift. Arrangements and advertising are in process for the dance which will be held October 13 at the UU Church of the Palouse. Faunce will check with Lysa Salisbury to see if there was beer and wine left over from the Syringa fundraising event that might be used for the dance.

12. Pesticides in the City of Moscow Parks.

This is a work in progress and there was nothing new to report.

13. Food Insecurity in Moscow Report.

There were no new details available.

14. Indigenous Peoples' Days Events.

Faunce is meeting with Yolanda Bisbee to coordinate campus and HRC activities to eliminate overlap or duplication and to discuss her input for the tribal liaison. Steve Martin, UI Native Studies, is back in the area and may be willing to be a speaker or facilitator.

15. Racial Equality and Inclusive Community Month.

Activities include:

- Movie showing, "Inequality for All," on September 6th which is sponsored by the Task Force and teacher's union. Kelly moved for the HRC to co-sponsor the movie for \$200.00. The motion was seconded by Awaad-Rafferty, and the motion carried.
- Human Rights Day at the Market, sponsored by Latah County Human Rights Task Force, will be held on Saturday September 8th, from 8:00-1:00 p.m.
- Community Potluck, tentatively planned for Monday, September 24th, at the 1912 Center. Kelly will be compiling a group of recipes using inexpensive market foods and foods that are grown locally.
- Resource Fair. The commission's goal is to be a hub for bringing resources together, whether available in paper form or online. Compiled information could be placed in free libraries and/or on the public library computer. The potluck will be used to promote the Resource Fair. Faunce will send an email with the link to a resource website.

16. Human Rights and Opioids – Book Reading Event.

This book reading is tentatively scheduled for November, sometime during the week before Thanksgiving. The HRC would like readers from: the police department, emergency medical services, the Latah Recovery Center, the school district, and possibly a member of a Native American tribe.

17. Medicaid Expansion.

The Medicaid Expansion Initiative will be listed on the ballot as Proposition 2. Argersinger would like to have a healthcare forum regarding the initiative. There was discussion. Argersinger moved that the Human Rights Commission recommend the Mayor and City Council issue a resolution to support Proposition Two, the Medicaid Expansion Initiative, which will be included on the November ballot. This motion was seconded by Weeks and the motion carried. Faunce will send a letter to the Mayor and Argersinger will contact the City Clerk about scheduling this item on the Administrative Committee agenda. The possibility of a forum on this topic will be discussed at the next HRC meeting once information regarding other scheduled forums has been researched and presented.

18. Election Day As a Holiday.

There was discussion about declaring Election Day as a holiday and the following concerns were expressed:

- People would view it as a "day off" and leave town.

- City staff would be given the holiday but private company personnel would not. Banks, etc. would still be open.
- Fast food industries need more employees on holidays which would make it more difficult for workers to observe the holiday.

It was decided simplifying absentee voting in Moscow might be addressed instead of declaring Election Day as a holiday.

19. Announcements/Other Business.

a. The Rainbow Project Directive through Inland Oasis needs volunteers. More information can be obtained through an older post on the Inland Oasis Facebook page. This might be a good opportunity for students who want to volunteer.

b. Awaad-Rafferty met with SYNC students recently. She suggested using first-year volunteers for any HRC activities, cleanup projects, etc. for Inclusive Communities Month. Because the Commission does not usually need volunteers, it was suggested the Latah Human Rights Task Force be contacted for opportunities.

Adjournment.

The meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

Minutes Approved On

SEP 18 2018

Clerk/Deputy Signature