

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION



Ken Faunce
Commission Chair

~Minutes~
November 20, 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, Sandra Kelly, Ari Carter, Jana Argersinger, Meredith Metsker, Steve Simmons, Erin Agidius

MEMBERS ABSENT: Bruce Pitman, Rula Awwad-Rafferty, Cassie Seubert, Sophia Eck, Elizabeth Stevens

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

1. Approval of Minutes of October 16, 2018.

The following will be removed from Item 3, Line 1, "and Women's Suffrage." Tallent moved to accept the minutes as amended, seconded by Kelly, and the motion carried.

2. Review of Calendar.

The calendar was reviewed and these events were added:

- Oppenheimer Symposium, date to be announced
- Native American Heritage Keynote, Dr. Manulani Aluli Meyer (speaker), November 27th, 6:00 p.m., UI Vandal Ballroom

3. Commissioner Terms – Faunce.

Stevens has been reappointed to the Commission. Eck has stepped down to study abroad which leaves the Commission's UI seat open. Carter has emailed the Mayor about reappointment.

4. "Got Health Insurance" Forum and Sponsorship.

The forum was entitled "Got Health Insurance? Prop 2 and the Fight for Universal Healthcare." The crowd was very small but very engaged. About 15 people attended. The UI Office of General Council could not use university resources for publicity because it was a "political issue." Radio Free Moscow promoted the event and the Argonaut covered it. The room rental on the UI campus was \$50, which has not been billed to date. Kelly moved to sponsor \$150 towards this event. This amount would include \$50 for the room rental fee and \$100 toward Tim Faust's flight. Tallent seconded the motion and the motion carried.

5. Future Social Justice Forums.

There is usually a forum held in February and one in April/May. There was discussion and suggestions regarding future social justice forums:

- Sanctuaries. Topics might include: What is a sanctuary? What does it entail? What are the legal issues? Some churches in Moscow and Pullman are looking to become sanctuaries.
- Universal Pre-Kindergarten. Idaho does not pay for all-day kindergarten yet. This might be an educational forum.
- Wealth and Equality (highlight of MLK Breakfast).

6. Reports.

A. Latah Human Rights Task Force – Muneta/Carter.

The Task Force continued with planning for the Martin Luther King Day Breakfast. Prompts have been given to the schools. Speakers are being sought. There will be a call sent out for nominations for the Rosa Parks Award soon.

B. Northwest Coalition for Human Rights – Faunce.

A meeting will be held to discuss membership. An open meeting will also be held soon. Those who have events which deal with human rights can forward them to Faunce who will send them out through the Coalition website and Facebook page. Any human rights events may also be sent through the Commission email list. Funds have been moved from the Finding the Center Conference bank account to the Northwest Coalition for Human Rights account. There is currently enough money (\$11,000) to sponsor the next conference without taking donations.

C. Human Rights and Opioids – Book Reading, “Dreamland.”

It was a great event with good discussion. Readers included Chief James Fry; Ashley Jennings, Latah County Deputy Prosecutor who works with the Drug Court; a representative from the Latah Recovery Center; and Kirri Brown, Lapwai Community Coalition. This topic may be revisited in March.

D. Sidewalks in Moscow.

City Councilmember Boland reported there was a presentation about A Street changes. The entire intersection of Line and A Streets will be rebuilt. Sidewalks will be installed on the south side of the street by the end of next summer. There will be just a few sections of A Street without sidewalks. This could be one area where the Commission could educate residents about the City’s sidewalk program. Simmons has seen several wheelchairs on A Street trying to maneuver poor sidewalk conditions. Boland will revisit the issue about funding the remaining sidewalk on A Street during the spring construction season. He also suggested the Commission might ask for monies in their budget for three or four panels of sidewalk or contacting the City’s grant coordinator who might apply for ADA grants for this section. The Historic Preservation Commission might be interested in helping.

E. Food Insecurity/ Poverty on the Palouse and in Moscow.

The general meeting was cancelled. The next general meeting will be December 20, 2018 at 5:30 p.m. Subcommittees will be reporting at this meeting.

F. Pesticides in the City of Moscow Parks/Collaboration with Sustainability Commission.

There was no update.

7. Announcements/Other Business.

A. Syringa Mobile Home Park Update. Three individuals are still at the mobile home park and have nowhere else to go. They have electricity but not water and will be served eviction notices. There is ongoing trespassing, vandalism, and garbage dumping. The Humane Society has received feral cats from the park as expected. There is currently an outbreak of panleukopenia. Some of these cats have been infected and have gone back into the community. The Humane Society has a pet food bank and donations are welcome.

B. Muneta has "It's OK to Be Diverse" posters for distribution downtown, on the UI campus and in Pullman. She will send the poster by email to Commissioners.

C. The Alternative Giving Market of the Palouse will be held at the 1912 Center, on December 6th, from 4:30 – 8:00 p.m. Online giving starts Friday, November 23.

Adjournment.

The meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

Minutes Approved On

DEC 18 2018
Karen Poller
Clerk/Deputy Signature