

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION



Ken Faunce
Commission Chair

~Minutes~
July 21, 2020

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 ATTENDING: Ken Faunce, Becky Tallent, Defne Yuksel, Jana Argersinger, Steve Simmons, Rula Awwad-Rafferty, Erin Agidius, Elizabeth Stevens, Jesse Martinez, Bekah MillerMacPhee, David Pittsley (*Note: Some Commission members attended by Zoom*)

MEMBERS ABSENT: Courtney LaFranchi

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: James Fry Jr., Staff Liaison; Maureen Laflin, City Council Liaison; Karen Potter, Deputy Clerk; Joann Muneta, ex-officio

Faunce welcomed new Commission members David Pittsley and Bekah MillerMacPhee.

1. Approval of Minutes of February 18, 2020

Awwad-Rafferty moved to accept the minutes as written, seconded by Simmons and the motion carried.

2. Review of Calendar

The calendar was reviewed and the following events were noted:

- Wednesday, October 7, Mental Health Awareness Walk. This will be a virtual walk.
- Other events ongoing in the community such as Black Lives Matter and those dealing with equity and access to healthcare program.

3. Support for Native American, African-American Art Exhibit

Roger Rowley, Prichard Art Gallery, is putting together a grant to bring a Native American, African -American Art Exhibit to Moscow. Rowley is asking for community support to publicize the program. Stevens moved to support this art exhibition and Tallent seconded the motion. The motion carried.

4. Support of Transgender Community Members

The following was discussed regarding support of transgender community members:

- (1) Faunce recently sent a flyer to Commission members to be posted in Moscow and

Pullman. He brought copies of the poster to the meeting and asked attendees to post it on area bulletin boards. Awward-Rafferty moved to approve posting the flyers to show the community the Commission's support of the transgender community. This motion was seconded by Simmons and the motion carried.

(2) Faunce suggested crafting a guest editorial in support of transgender community members for the Daily News from the HRC and other groups, including local businesses.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Susan Hampton, Moscow, said that several College of Law groups may want put their names on this editorial.

Faunce asked all attendees to let him know if there are any groups on social media that would like to be included. Once the letter is completed, it will be sent to signers for approval. Awward-Rafferty moved a guest editorial be crafted, Argersinger seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

(3) As the result of a recent ad which featured Friendship Square bathrooms, Faunce suggested a formal recommendation to the City Council and the Mayor to change restrooms to gender neutral.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Carlee Smith, Moscow, read a letter expressing support for the gender-neutral bathrooms and asked for a recommendation to pass an ordinance that all single occupancy bathrooms be made gender neutral. She also requested the Friendship Square bathroom be remodeled to single occupancy to include a sign and locking mechanism.

There was discussion which included adding a changing table and feminine products to each bathroom as well.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Susan Hampton mentioned there is often lines to the women's bathrooms and access to stalls might improve if gender-neutral bathrooms were installed.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Awward-Rafferty and Faunce read letters/emails of support for this effort from Phil and Debbie Gray, Casey Willitts, Ryan Lindig and J. Straham.

Argersinger moved to recommend to the Mayor and City Council to start moving public restrooms in Moscow to gender neutral, starting with City Hall and Friendship Square. The motion was seconded by Awward-Rafferty and the motion carried. Faunce will begin drafting a letter and will send it to Commissioners and onto to City Supervisor Gary Riedner. After Riedner's review, the letter will move to the Admin. Committee. If approved, it will be forwarded to City Council and the Mayor. Faunce will let people know when the process is at a stage where it is appropriate to contact City Council and the Mayor to express support.

5. Theme for Inclusive Communities Week

The theme from the 2019 Inclusive Communities Month was mental health. Suggestions for this year included transgender and racial issues. The Commission may provide speakers via Zoom or stream a movie. Tallent moved to make the general theme for Inclusive Communities Month

“Intersectionality” and then work on the details. The motion was seconded by Argersinger and the motion carried.

6. Forum on Police Training - Collaboration with Latah County Human Rights Task Force

The task force would like to partner with the HRC during Inclusive Communities Month regarding police training, community participation, and knowledge. It was suggested that a panel be hosted where questions could be answered.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Sharlisa Davis, Moscow, read a list of questions regarding police procedures, academy, and training that could be answered at the forum.

There was discussion about having other first responders, mental health responders, etc. on the panel. Fry expressed interest in serving on the panel. A suggestion was made that the Chief of Police be removed as the contact person for the HRC on the City website.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Cyndie Gray, Moscow, suggested with the theme of intersectionality that Latah Recovery Center and other organizations also be reached out to.

Awward moved the HRC partner with the Latah County Human Rights Task Force on a forum with a panel during Inclusive Communities Month, and Simmons seconded the motion. The motion carried. Simmons and Martinez volunteered to work together on this effort.

REPORTS

1. Latah County Human Rights Task Force Update

The HRC is co-sponsoring the Great Moscow Food Drive with the task force. The southeast corner of East City Park has been reserved on August 1 from 9 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. for donations of food, produce and money. The proceeds will go to the Food Bank and the Weekend Food for Kids program. Two hundred bags of food are currently given out every year to children. The need has increased from 100 bags distributed in 2019. The task force needs two volunteers to transport donations from cars to the truck. The task force will host a “Health and Well Being as a Human Right” virtual presentation in lieu of attendance to the market this year. This presentation will be available on the website and made available to the schools

2. HRC at the Market

Due to COVID-19, HRC at the Market was cancelled and will not occur in August as well. Commission materials may be included on the City of Moscow table for the Market.

3. 2021 HRC Budget.

The 2021 budget for the HRC was submitted for the same amount as last year. The City Council will vote on budgets in August.

4. Showing "Selma" at the Kenworthy Theatre

This event was cancelled and there are no plans for a showing. The Commission may work with the Kenworthy for streaming during Inclusive Communities Month.

5. Living Voices Event

The Living Voices presentation on Women's Suffrage was held in the schools in February.

6. High School Voting Seat

Due to Idaho laws, the Commission's high school seat cannot be a voting seat. Those over 18 years of age may have voting rights. The Commission's HRC high school representative may still have a voice but may not cast a vote.

7. Bias Reporting System

Faunce is still working on this issue and it has been put on hold.

8. Voices of Moscow

Yuksel reached out to the Chamber of Commerce about displaying Voices of Moscow survey results. She did not receive an answer. Awwad-Rafferty will collaborate with Yuksel to recontact the Chamber. Yuksel has also been conducting an online survey about Moscow Police Department and protests. There may be a video with links to disperse survey data.

9. Future Social Justice Forums and Events

The current focus of the Commission will be Inclusive Communities Month activities. If there is a suggestion for a Social Justice Forum for October or November, such as a virtual presentation, keep it in mind for the end of the year. Indigenous Peoples Day will take place but the Commission is not sure in what form—event/forum/speaker and possibly virtual.

10. Food Insecurity / Poverty on the Palouse Update

No report available as this group has not met since March.

11. Information from City Council Member Laflin

Council Member Laflin reported that Council is working on getting people prepared for gender neutral bathrooms.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. There are needs for international students. It may be important for HRC to be cognizant and provide support.
2. Appreciation was expressed to the Mayor, City Council and Chief Fry their work on behalf of stepping out and speaking up regarding masks, Black Lives Matter, etc.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 6:47 p.m.

Moscow Human Rights Commission

Planning Calendar

Tues., Sep 15, 2020, 4:00 pm	Monthly Meeting-City Hall: 1 st Floor Conference Room
Tues., Oct 20, 2020, 4:00 pm	Monthly Meeting-City Hall: 1 st Floor Conference Room
Tues., Nov 17, 2020, 4:00 pm	Monthly Meeting-City Hall: 1 st Floor Conference Room
Tues., Dec 15, 2020, 4:00 pm	Monthly Meeting-City Hall: 1 st Floor Conference Room
Tues., Jan 19, 2021, 4:00 pm	Monthly Meeting-City Hall: 1 st Floor Conference Room
Tues., Feb 16, 2021, 4:00 pm	Monthly Meeting-City Hall: 1 st Floor Conference Room
Tues., Mar 16, 2021, 4:00 pm	Monthly Meeting-City Hall: 1 st Floor Conference Room
Tues., Apr 20, 2021, 4:00 pm	Monthly Meeting-City Hall: 1 st Floor Conference Room
Tues., May 18, 2021, 4:00 pm	Monthly Meeting-City Hall: 1 st Floor Conference Room
Tues., Jun 15, 2021, 4:00 pm	Monthly Meeting-City Hall: 1 st Floor Conference Room
Tues., Jul 20, 2021, 4:00 pm	Monthly Meeting-City Hall: 1 st Floor Conference Room
Tues., Aug 17, 2021, 4:00 pm	Monthly Meeting-City Hall: 1 st Floor Conference Room