

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION



Ken Faunce
Commission Chair

~Minutes~
August 18, 2020

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Defne Yuksel, Courtney LaFranchi

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

1. Approval of Minutes of July 21, 2020

Tallent 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 added:

- Borah Symposium, online, September 28 and 29
- The University of Idaho is in the process of signing a contract with Patrisse Cullors, co-founder of Black Lives Matter, for a Zoom event on Sept. 9

3. Inclusive Community Month Events

Faunce has received many emails about possible speakers and panel ideas for Inclusive Community Month. Event possibilities were discussed as follows:

- Jessica Samuels, Zoom event, September 22nd, to speak about mixed-race and identity.
- An overview and explanation of intersectionality for presentation in early September.
- Kimberle' Crenshaw, national speaker. It was noted that due to limited Commission funding for a national speaker, an alternative might be to gain permission to show one of her existing videos.
- Streaming Ma Vie En Rose (My Life in Pink), a Belgian film on growing up transgender, at the Kenworthy Theatre.
- Partnering with the Latah County Public Library for "Kanopy" movies which stream a

variety of free-of-charge movies dealing with intersectionality issues. The library is willing to compile a list for individuals to view at their convenience during the month. The Commission, as well as the library, will publicize the movies.

- Sydney Gray, as a panelist, from MARA (Moscow Anti-Racism Alliance)
- Utilizing Disability Action Center and Vital Community Conversations.

In summary, suggested activities included a local panel, various speakers, streaming a movie at the Kenworthy Theatre, and viewing Kanopy movies from the Latah County Library. Tallent moved to accept these activities for Inclusive Community Month. The motion was seconded by Jana Argersinger and carried.

4. Public Comment.

Rich Giles, Moscow, MARA. Giles is with MARA and will talk to them about the Inclusive Community Month panel.

REPORTS

1. Latah Human Rights Task Force Update

The Moscow Food Bank was a huge success. Contributions included 2,500 pounds of food and \$10,500 in cash. The Task Force donated \$2,500 to the Weekend Meals for Kids, \$7,200 for the Moscow Food Bank, and \$1,000 to the Westside Food Bank (a new food bank in Moscow). The task force has a committee working on "Wellness as a Human Right." They are putting together a visual presentation which will be available to the community and schools and will be posted on Facebook and the website.

2. 2021 HRC Budget

The City Council approved the Commission's 2020-2021 budget for \$6,000.

3. Support of Transgender Community Members

An article and opinion editorial were in the Daily News regarding the Commission's recommendation to convert public restrooms to transgender. The recommendation has gone to the City Council and the Mayor who are evaluating the price of refurbishment for existing restrooms.

4. Forum on Police Training

A handout was distributed to members with information from a planning committee meeting for a police and community panel. This will be a collaborative effort with the Latah County Human Rights Task Force, the Commission and possibly the UI. There may be two panels:

(1) An education and information panel with police

(2) A panel with students and different minorities who have suggestions to improve communication with police and smooth out or question police practices. This will allow community input. There is concern about bringing multi-cultural individuals to make suggestions for improvement together with law enforcement (privilege and power).

There are two Commission members and two Latah County Human Rights Task Force members on this committee as well as Muneta. There was discussion. Fry suggested a moderator to present questions by paper so individuals can remain anonymous. Questions could be picked from Panel #1 and brought back to Panel #2. Those with questions could be asked if they are comfortable. Current police efforts are:

- Approval of body cameras
- Officers' completion of a Bakari Sellars video
- Three-hour Implicit Bias training scheduled for officers between October 5th and November 5th
- UI Diversity group and Fry have been conferring about having Jermaine Galloway, former Boise police officer, as a presenter
- Jeff Guillory will be presenting information on implicit biases to all City personnel.

It was suggested that Kathy Law from the Post Falls Police Department be included on the panel. Once the police department's body camera policies are written, the HRC can review them. Ultimately, City Attorney Vowels will review and finalize.

5. Bias Reporting System

City Supervisor Riedner has no problem with getting a system in place for bias reporting. These incidents would be those of bias or discrimination that do not rise to the level of a crime. There are still questions to be answered about what is to be done with statistics and feedback and who will be responding to the reports from the City.

The Commission would like the system to be statistical and for reporting such as how often people are called names. In addition, they would like people in the community to feel that they have an outlet, knowing that the Commission is listening and that they have been heard. An email may be set up for reporting purposes so individuals may remain anonymous. A suggestion was made to look at circles of justice or restorative justice.

6. Voices of Moscow

Yuksel will be working with Paul Bush to produce a video of quotes and snippets of survey results.

7. Indigenous People's Day

Details for Indigenous People's Day are still being considered as it is unknown if group meetings will be allowed due to COVID-19. Faunce has been in contact with representatives from both universities and tribal members to talk about options. Tallent suggested reaching out to the library for a display about local tribes and tribal differences as a backup. The library may have videos or speakers already in place. Tallent will coordinate this effort. Another suggestion was to work with schools and libraries to create online learning to familiarize children with local tribes.

8. Future Social Justice Forums and Events.

With events in September and October, the next future social justice forum may be held at the end of the year or the beginning of next year. Restorative justice was suggested as a topic.

9. Food Insecurity / Poverty on the Palouse Update

No update was available as the group has not meet.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Because of federal money, the school district has delayed the free and reduced lunch program until September 14. There will be no free lunches provided from August 31 – Sept. 14. The school district is looking at how to fund meals and fill this gap. Ken will let Mary Jo from the Weekend Food for Kids Program aware. It will cost about \$650-700 a day to fund this program.
2. Andrew Becker, a long time HRC member, passed away two weeks ago. Andrew was responsible for the ADA accessible doors in City Hall.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

Minutes Approved On

SEP 15 2020


Clerk / Deputy Signature