

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION



Ken Faunce
Commission Chair

~Minutes~
September 15, 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, Defne Yuksel, Jana Argersinger, Steve Simmons, Erin Agidius, Elizabeth Stevens, Jesse Martinez, Bekah MillerMacPhee, David Pittsley (Some members attended the meeting by Zoom)

MEMBERS ABSENT: Rula Awwad-Rafferty, 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 August 18, 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:

- Law Enforcement Panels (Webinars):
 - October 15, 6:30 p.m., "To Serve and Protect." Informational session with law enforcement.
 - October 22, 6:30 p.m., "Building Bridges" with community members and students.
- BLM Speaker Series – Martinez will email list to be added to calendar.

3. Public Comment.

There was no public comment.

REPORTS

1. Latah Human Rights Task Force Report.

The Task Force is completing work on PowerPoint presentations about Health and Wellness as a Human Right in lieu of Human Rights Day at the Market (which was cancelled due to COVID-19 precautions). There will be a video and music on the website and Facebook page which will be

available to schools and community members. The Task Force is also working on plans on how to approach the MLK Art and Essay contest, awards and breakfast.

2. Inclusive Community Month.

The Jamie Nolan event went well. About 36 people tuned in, and there was good discussion.

Upcoming events for this month include:

- Friday, September 18, Dr. Allen Sutton, "Intersectionality in the Workplace."
- Cancelled - September 22nd event, with Jessica Samuels, "Mixed-Race and Ethnic Identity." Attendees were asked to contact Faunce with other speakers who might be qualified to speak on this topic. Because of time constraints, the speaker may need to be local or live close.
- Wednesday, September 28, "Disability and Intersectionality: Navigating Disability in a Virtual Environment."

The HRC and the Latah County Library have been advertising the library's Canopy movies which deal with intersectionality.

3. Gender Neutral Bathrooms.

The City is researching costs for gender neutral bathrooms. The Latah Human Rights Task Force sent a letter to City Administration in support of the Commission's request. Councilmember Laflin spoke with the Mayor about gender neutral bathrooms. The City wants to look into this issue. The new park in Moscow is a good place to start.

4. Forums on Police Training.

Questions are being finalized for the police training forum, Panel #1, "To Serve and Protect." Fry will contact Sheriff Skiles about also participating on this panel. Panel #2, "Building Bridges," deals with communication and relationships in the community. These panels will be virtual webinars. Participants will be asked to email their questions.

5. Bias Reporting System.

The Commission is waiting to see if the City is still willing to create a bias reporting system which could include a link on the City's website and collection boxes for those who want to report. Faunce recently distributed an article and news story to Commissioners by email. There is still obvious tensions with people of color in Moscow. If the City cannot or will not set up a system, the Northwest Coalition for Human Rights can do it and would include Pullman as well.

6. Voices of Moscow.

A video ad will be recorded and published the first week of October with a compilation of responses to the Voices of Moscow survey. Yuksel is still collecting responses including those from UI. It is hoped to have an in-person display in the future as well as a posting of the most pressing responses.

7. Indigenous People's Day.

Tallent has been working with the Latah County Library on activities for Indigenous People's Day. The library is putting together a list of books about Native American people and a display which highlights six tribes in Idaho. Tallent is also developing lesson plans for primary and secondary school students and a fact sheet. Rob Caisley, UI Theatre Department, did a reading of a play with virtual actors and playwrights who are Native American. Faunce will check to see if a recording can be shown or if it is possible to do another reading

8. Future Social Justice Forums and Events.

The Commission is busy throughout the end of the year. Tallent and Argersinger will be collaborating on a forum on restorative justice. Councilmember Laflin is also interested in helping.

9. Food Insecurity / Poverty on the Palouse.

There has been no meeting since March. The school districts were able to cover the lunch program through granting agencies. The Weekend Food for Kids program covered the weekends. The school district has kicked in for the school year.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Until further notice, the Human Rights Commission will continue to meet in the City Council Chambers to observe social distancing protocols and provide Zoom meeting access.
2. The Mayor sent coffee cups for Commissioners. Cups were distributed to Commissioners who attended in person. Commissioners who were unable to attend may pick up their coffee cup at the police department's reception desk.
3. The United Way is accepting donations for those who have been affected by area wildfires.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

Minutes Approved On

OCT 20 2020


Clerk / Deputy Signature