

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION



Ken Faunce
Commission Chair

~Minutes~
October 20, 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 PRESENT: Ken Faunce, Becky Tallent, Jana Argersinger, Erin Agidius, Jesse Martinez, Becky MillerMacPhee, David Pittsley, Defne Yuksel, Courtney LaFranchi; Elizabeth Stevens (*Note: Some Commission members attended by Zoom*)

MEMBERS ABSENT: Steve Simmons, Rula Awwad-Rafferty,

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Capt. Tyson Berrett, Staff Liaison; Maureen Laflin, City Council Liaison; Karen Potter, Deputy Clerk

1. Approval of Minutes of August 18, 2020.

Tallent moved to accept the minutes as written, seconded by Argersinger, and the motion carried.

2. Review of Calendar.

The calendar was reviewed and the following correction / addition was made:

- Community Crisis Intervention Training Forum (Zoom) will be held on December 8, 5:00 p.m.
- MLK Virtual Breakfast, Saturday, January 16, 9:00 a.m.

3. Native Playwright Panel.

A flyer was sent out earlier to Commission members regarding this event. This panel, held on November 6 at 6 p.m., will be in lieu of a live event for this year's Indigenous Peoples Day. Native American playwrights will speak with a question and answer session to follow. Agidius moved to approve the \$200 sponsorship for the UI Theatre Department's Panel, Tallent seconded, and the motion carried.

4. Public Comment.

There was no public comment.

REPORTS

1. Latah Human Rights Task Force Update

The 2021 MLK Breakfast will be virtual and will follow the same format as a live event. The Art and Essay Contest will be delayed until spring due to the disruption of school schedules. The presentation for the winners will be held in May. The wellness project has been completed and the online PowerPoint will be posted on the task force's website and Facebook page. It has been forwarded to several teachers. Attendees were asked to review it and let Muneta know if there any other groups who might want to use it.

2. Inclusive Community Month

The last of Inclusive Community Month events included a virtual presentation on disabilities in the workplace with almost 40 people in attendance.

3. Gender Neutral Bathrooms

Parks and Recreation is currently evaluating all City public restrooms. A report will be created regarding the inventory and status of all existing bathrooms. The City Council will then look at where to start and what are priorities. This report will go before the Administrative Committee on Monday, October 26. These gender-neutral bathrooms will be ADA accessible and family-friendly. Some changes may be a matter of signage. At some point, letters to the newspaper may be appropriate.

4. Strengthening Relationships with Police & Community.

This panel will be held on November 12 at 7:00 p.m. The title is "Addressing Systemic Biases Regarding Race and Ethnicity." Agidius will be the moderator with the chief of police, sheriff, and Yolanda Bisbee (UI Chief Diversity Officer) on the panel. Martinez is working on a fourth panelist and wording for questions related to hiring, training, police response, who does reporting, who can see the reports, and the City and County working together. The second panel, held in December, will pertain to mental health and law enforcement. Sharlisa Davis is organizing this event. MPD retired Operations Commander Paul Kwiatkowski will be a part of the panel with the police chief and sheriff. There will be a one-hour presentation and a half-hour question and answer panel. Information about the first panel will be distributed soon.

5. Bias Reporting System

The request for a Bias Reporting System has been turned down by the City due to limited City resources. City Supervisor Riedner suggested more educational forums if there are further problems. The City is concerned about fraudulent bias reports and naming individual City officials or police officers. These types of reports could definitely occur. The Commission is willing to set up a system, vet it well, and identify false reports. Faunce and Laflin will meet with City Attorney Mia Bautista. Depending on the outcome of that meeting, a subcommittee may be formed to develop a more detailed proposal with input from other Commission members and representatives from different groups or organizations in the community. The Commission would prefer to have the backing of the City as opposed to a nonprofit; however, if the City does not want to put a system in place, the Northwest Coalition of Human Rights is able to do so. Commission members will be checking with personal contacts to see if other cities or states have similar systems. This system is not just for reporting a City or County official or a police officer, it is also for reporting

incidents where citizens have encountered slurs, etc. If approved, the system could be added to the City Facebook page. Currently, citizens who access the Human Rights Commission page on the City's website are directed to Chief Fry. Faunce is working to have Commission questions / concerns sent directly to the Commission so it is not intimidating for those reporting. Chief Fry has agreed with this change.

6. Voices of Moscow

Paul Busch is moving from the area and is unable to help with video advertisement for the Voices of Moscow project. He will be returning the initial payment that was sent to him. There were several suggestions of other videographers who might be able to help. Some of the more pressing survey comments may be discussed at an HRC meeting and a response prepared.

7. Indigenous People's Day

There were two separate events for Indigenous People's Day. The library had a display and provided a list of books and videos available by Native authors and filmmakers. These items will be available until the end of the month. Tallent and Valerie Wiss, a former elementary school teacher, worked together to create lesson plans for grades 1-12. Two or three teachers are using the plans or portions of them. There was an article in the Daily News. Tallent received questions about stereotypes which led her to contact the Native American Journalists Association. As a result, informational videos are being created for those who are interested.

8. Future Social Justice Forums and Events.

Suggestions for future social justice forums included:

- Police and the Gay Community
- Restorative Justice

Possible speakers and resources were discussed. LaFranchi, Argersinger and Laflin will meet to talk about this topic further.

9. Food Insecurity / Poverty on the Palouse Update

This group is still not meeting. The Moscow Food Bank is expanding so they have more facilities. The Westside Food Bank, run by Inland Oasis, is opening up on Thursday and is located behind Mod Pizza in the second half of the building. Inland Oasis is also putting in a warming shelter for those who do not want to go to a church, especially for the students. The building will have shower and laundry facilities as well as a kitchen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 4:55 p.m.

Moscow Human Rights Commission

Planning Calendar

Thur., Nov 12, 2020, 6:30 pm	Strengthening Relationships with Police & Community Race Zoom forum
Thur., Dec 8, 2020, 5:00 pm	Strengthening Relationships with Police & Community CIT Zoom forum
Tues., Dec 15, 2020, 4:00 pm	Monthly Meeting-City Hall: 1 st Floor Conference Room
Sat., Jan 16, 2020, 9:00 am	MLK Human Rights Breakfast-Virtual
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