

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION



Ken Faunce
Commission Chair
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Regular Meeting
~Minutes~

James Fry
Staff Liaison
208-883-7064

<https://www.ci.moscow.id.us/450/Human-Rights-Commission>

**Tuesday,
February 16, 2021**

4:00 PM

**Mayor's Conference Room
206 E. 3rd St.**

The meeting was called to order at 4:03 p.m.

PRESENT: Ken Faunce, Rula Awwad-Rafferty (virtual), David Pittsley (virtual), Jesse Martinez (virtual), Jana Argersinger (virtual), Elizabeth Stevens (virtual), Julia Davis (virtual)

ABSENT: Erin Agidius, Defne Yuksel, Bekah Miller-MacPhee, Steve Simmons, Courtney LaFranchi, Maureen Laflin (Council Liaison)

STAFF: Capt. Tyson Berrett, Staff Liaison; Karen Potter, Deputy Clerk

REGULAR AGENDA

1. Approval of Human Rights Commission Minutes for January 19, 2021 (ACTION ITEM)

Minutes presented for approval.

PROPOSED ACTIONS: Approve minutes as presented; approve minutes with amendments; or take such other action deemed appropriate.

Awwad-Rafferty moved and Argersinger seconded to approve the minutes as presented. Vote: Ayes: Unanimous. Nays: None. Abstentions: None. Motion carried.

2. Review of Calendar (ACTION ITEM)

Review upcoming meetings and events.

PROPOSED ACTIONS: Add/edit items to the calendar; or take such other action deemed appropriate.

The following events were added to the calendar:

- Thursday, February 18, 2021, 5:00 p.m., Zyahna Bryant, Black History Month Keynote Speaker, "Where Do We Go from Here?"
- Monday, February 22, Noon, Dr. Shaakirrah Sanders, Black History Month, Lunchtime Lecture

3. Strengthening Relationships with Police and Community (ACTION ITEM)

The Human Rights Commission hosted a panel on strengthening relationships with police and community in October. The theme of the panel was "Addressing Systemic Biases Regarding Race and Ethnicity." There has been discussion regarding hosting a second panel.

PROPOSED ACTIONS: Vote to approve the next forum on Race and Ethnicity Part II; or provide staff further direction.

The ad hoc committee met and the topic of the panel will be "Part II—Addressing Systemic Biases Regarding Race and Ethnicity." Topics and unanswered questions which were not covered in the first panel will be addressed at this event to be held on Thursday, March 25, at 6:30 p.m. Chief Fry and Sheriff Skiles

will be panelists. Another panelist and a moderator are needed. Tremaine Gaither and a native American panel member were suggested. Argersinger moved to go forward with this event and Awwad-Rafferty seconded the motion. Vote: Ayes: Unanimous. Nays: None. Abstentions: None. Motion carried. Topics covered will include:

- Recruiting a diverse law enforcement specific to race and gender.
- Accountability.
- Records – how records of encounters, complaints, etc. are tracked.
- De-escalation practices.
- How do people of different groups feel safe in the Moscow community and what are ways to make people feel safe so they are comfortable talking to police?
- Training – how often does training occur and is it sufficient?

Martinez suggested a third panel to be held in summer or late fall in which law enforcement listens and hears recommendations from the community and what works in different areas. Action steps would be provided to law enforcement. The Commission is hopeful that these panels will continue periodically throughout the year. Megan Gonzales, a second-year law student, was suggested as a moderator or participant for the second or third panels. Commissioners were asked to send suggestions for a moderator and/or panel participant to Faunce.

4. Public Comment and Response to Previous Comments (limited to 10 minutes)

Members of the public may speak to the Commission regarding matters NOT on the agenda or currently pending before the Commission. Please state your name and city of residence for the record and limit your remarks to three (3) minutes.

None offered.

REPORTS

1. Latah Human Rights Task Force Report.

The task force is working on Living Voices presentations. The topic will be “Our Revolution” regarding black participation in the American Revolution and slavery. All presentations will be virtual and schools may choose a film version or a live stream. Any school in Latah County may participate. The task force has written a letter of support to the Spokane synagogue which was recently defaced. A letter was also written to the Daily News editor. The newspaper did not cover this incident. The task force has contributed to the synagogue’s holocaust and cleanup funds.

2. HRC Budget 2021 – 2022.

Faunce reviewed the budget request letter 2022. The HRC will be requesting \$6,000 again this year.

3. Vandalism of Spokane Synagogue.

There was discussion regarding an HRC donation to the vandalized Spokane synagogue. Faunce clarified that the Commission cannot legally donate to an organization but can provide sponsorships. In addition, the Commission can write a letter and sent it through the City Supervisor for approval. Commissioners may also write individual letters. A suggestion was made to order “We are Everywhere” signs from the Wassmuth Center in Boise and send any donations given for the signs to synagogue. City Administration will be consulted about the possibility of moving forward with this suggestion. Other suggestions included an art and essay contest topic (through the Latah County Task Force’s MLK Breakfast effort or through

UI) and/or a video produced by the Commission. Faunce will prepare a letter to the Spokane synagogue, forward to the Commissioners for comments, and onto the City Supervisor for the final review and mailing.

4. Bias Reporting System.

No report.

5. Voices of Moscow.

The videographer is working on this project. Some of the video is shot outside so the weather has slowed production a bit.

6. Climate Mitigation Virtual Event.

This event has not been scheduled. Grants may be sought so that consultants can be hired. The Climate Change group is looking at what can be accomplished with a virtual event. Stevens will keep the Commission updated.

7. Future Social Justice Forum: Restorative Justice.

The ad hoc committee has met several times. Councilmember Laflin will be moderating the first panel which will cover three topics in regards to restorative justice:

- Criminal justice: Judge Mark Ingram, Magistrate Court Judge, Fifth Judicial District, Lincoln County, Idaho
- Education: Tina Orme, Principal, Fall Valley Elementary School, Pocatello, ID
- Tribal communities: James Holt, Nez Perce Tribe Member and Director of the Water Resources Division with the Nez Perce Tribe Department of Natural Resources.

The first panel is tentatively planned for April 8th. The second panel will address questions from the first panel and is tentatively planned for the end of April. The HRC may provide a small honorarium or gift for panelists. This will be a virtual event.

8. Food Insecurity / Poverty on the Palouse.

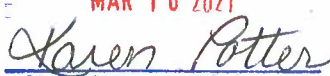
No report. Safari Pearl currently has a food bank and a Facebook page. They are wanting to collaborate with the Idaho Food Bank. Milk, dairy, meat and perishables are currently needed. The Latah Democrats are working with Safari Pearl by collecting and delivering food to outlying areas in Latah County.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 5:03 p.m.

Ken Faunce, Chair

Minutes Approved On

MAR 16 2021

Clerk / Deputy Signature