

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,
March 16, 2021**

4:00 PM

**City Council Chambers
206 E. 3rd St.**

The meeting was called to order at 4:20 p.m. (due to technical difficulties)

PRESENT: Ken Faunce, Jesse Martinez (virtual), Jana Argersinger (virtual), Elizabeth Stevens (virtual), Julia Davis (virtual), Erin Agidius (virtual), Bekah Miller-MacPhee (virtual), Steve Simmons (virtual)
ABSENT: Defne Yuksel, Courtney LaFranchi, Rula Awwad-Rafferty, David Pittsley
STAFF: James Fry Jr., Staff Liaison; Maureen Laflin, Council Liaison; Karen Potter, Deputy Clerk

Faunce opened the meeting by honoring Shaikh Ghazanfar who passed away this week. "Ghazi" was a founding member of the Human Rights Commission and helped create the CommUnity Walk plus many other efforts in the community. Joann Muneta and Ghazi were the first winners of the Sheikh Award. There is a bench dedicated to Ghazi in East City Park. He will be missed.

REGULAR AGENDA

1. Approval of Human Rights Commission Minutes for February 16, 2021 (ACTION ITEM)

Minutes presented for approval.

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

Agidius moved and Simmons 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 calendar was reviewed and there were no changes.

3. 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 the Art and Essay contest. Several entries have been submitted. This year entries may come through individuals, rather than classrooms, due to the abbreviated in-class schedule. The task force will send out another notice after spring break. Commissioners were asked to spread the word about the contest. The library will display the winners. The task force's food drive will be drive-by event (like last year) and at the Market if a table will be available. Donations will be directed to the Westside Food Bank or Moscow Food Bank.

2. HRC Budget 2021 – 2022.

The budget has been submitted to City Administration and will be approved by City Council in the summer.

3. Vandalism of Spokane Synagogue.

The Commission sent a letter to the recently-vandalized Spokane synagogue. As a follow up to a suggestion at the February meeting, Faunce informed the Commissioners that City policy does not allow the Commission to acquire signs from the Wassmuth Center in Boise and distribute to individuals while suggesting a donation to the Spokane synagogue. Instead the Northwest Coalition of Human Rights will use discretionary funds to make a donation to the Idaho Anne Frank Human Rights Memorial to acquire signs and suggest that people make donations to the Spokane synagogue. This effort will be outside of the Human Rights Commission. The Interfaith Association has proposed a "Preach In, Teach In" virtual event in response to vandalism to the synagogue and the Anne Frank Memorial. This event would involve different organizations, schools and the universities and provide connection to preach or teach on inclusion and enhancing all faiths as well as anti-Semitism. There was discussion. Muneta suggested the task force, the Commission, and the League of Women Voters speak together or individually for an event. It will be one project during April 18-25. Speakers from the Wassmuth Center and other groups will be brought in on a proposal. The Commission will move forward on planning and will vote to support/sponsor this event at the April 20th meeting.

4. Strengthening Relationships with Police and Community Forum.

The second forum on strengthening relationships with the police and community will be held virtually on Thursday, March 25, at 6:30 p.m. Panelists are Chief James Fry Jr., Sheriff Richie Skills and Tremaine Gaither. A fourth panelist is being sought. The moderator will be Dr. Faith Lutze, WSU Department of Criminal Justice. Those attending must register. A participant's link and advertisement will be sent out. The questions to be covered have been sent to the panelists as well. The ad hoc committee for this event is Faunce, two task force representatives and a representative from the Moscow Anti-Racism Alliance (MARA).

5. Restorative Justice Forums.

Three panelists have been selected for the forum:

- 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 ad hoc committee will be in touch with James Holt this next week.

6. Bias Reporting System.

There has been no response from the City. City Attorney Bautista is out of the office this week. Faunce will seek alternative methods for this system which will be modeled after UI's Bias Response Reporting Team. Any Commissioners who want to be involved are encouraged to email Faunce.

7. Voices of Moscow.

Video production is slow due to COVID-19 concerns and weather for outside filming but the project is progressing.

8. Climate Mitigation Virtual Event.

The Climate Mitigation group requested a time to be included on a future HRC agenda for a presentation. Rather than a climate community event, the group would like to meet with City commissions. There will be a public meeting on climate change issues at the Moscow City Council meeting on April 26.

9. Food Insecurity / Poverty on the Palouse.

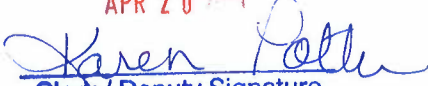
This group is still not meeting. There is regular food distribution from Idaho Food Bank and Inland Oasis can always use donations.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 4:55 p.m.

Ken Faunce, Chair

Minutes Approved On

2021
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Clerk / Deputy Signature