

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION



Ken Faunce
Commission Chair
hrc@ci.moscow.id.us

Regular Meeting ~Minutes~

James Fry
Staff Liaison
208-883-7064

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

**Tuesday,
August 17, 2021**

4:00 PM

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

The meeting was called to order at 4:02 p.m.

PRESENT: Ken Faunce, Jana Argersinger (virtual), Erin Agidius, David Pittsley, Julia Parker, Matty Murphy (virtual), Jesse Martinez, Elizabeth Stevens, Rula Awwad-Rafferty

ABSENT: Steve Simmons

STAFF: James Fry, Staff Liaison; Maureen Laflin, Council Liaison; Karen Potter, Deputy Clerk

Chair Faunce introduced Matty Murphy, the new college seat member, to the Commission.

REGULAR AGENDA

1. Approval of Human Rights Commission Minutes for July 20, 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 Pittsley seconded to approve the minutes as presented. Vote: Ayes: Six. Nays: None. Abstentions: One. 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.

No additions or 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 Great Moscow Food Drive was a success. Donations were down but close to what it was last year. The task force is still working on the MLK Breakfast. The theme will be education.

2. Inclusive Communities Month – In This Together

The status of activities for Inclusive Communities Month include:

- Community potluck. Originally planned for September 9th in the 1912 but is cancelled due to the rise of COVID variant cases in the community.
- Terry Buffington, who was previously active in the civil rights movement and voting rights, will speak about the connection of these issues to voting restrictions today. The date is to be determined.
- Dr. Vanessa Anthony-Stevens, UI Assistant Professor of Social and Cultural Studies, will present on the politicizing of education, September 21, 1912 Center.
- “Shared Legacies,” is a movie about the history of the civil rights movement of the Jews and Blacks and how the two groups worked together in the past and issues an urgent call for action in the future. This will be a live event at the Kenworthy Theatre (September 30) and will be streamed on September 29 & 30 online. A panel will follow the Kenworthy showing and panelists include: Dr. Kristin Haltinner, moderator (UI Associate Professor of Sociology), Dr. Aman McLeod (UI Assistant Professor of Political Science and Lecturer in Law), and Larry Fox (Interfaith Council and the Jewish Community).

3. Sheikh Award Ceremony

The draft press release calling for nominations for the 2021 Sheikh Community Unity Award was distributed to attendees for review. Nominations will be due by 5 p.m. on Friday, October 9, and will be reviewed by the Commissioners at the October meeting. The event will be held on Thursday, November 4, in the 1912 Center’s Great Room. It is not certain if the Sheikh family will be able to attend.

4. Voices of Moscow Video

Ideas for distribution of the Voices of Moscow video were discussed. Agidius will see if it is possible to correct spelling errors. The link for the video will be sent to the Mayor and City Council as well as Commission members. This item will be added to the September agenda.

5. Indigenous People’s Day

The spread of the variant will dictate Indigenous People’s Day activities. If the event takes place, it will be held in Friendship Square. There will be drummers. The Commission will be collaborating with Inland Oasis. Miss Idaho Drag Queen / Miss Gay Idaho has expressed interest in attending the event. She may speak about the two spirits concept or perform a song.

6. HRC at the Market

The last HRC at the Market will be held this Saturday from 8 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. Faunce will be attending and will be promoting the Bias Reporting System and Inclusive Communities Month.

7. FemFest – UI Tabling Event

Faunce will also be attending the FemFest on Thursday, August 26, 10:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at the ISUB (formerly the Commons). He will also be handing out flyers to attendees regarding the Bias Reporting System and Inclusive Communities Month.

8. Andrew Becker Memorial Artwork Panel

The family of Andrew Becker has donated funds for a memorial for Andrew, who was a longtime Moscow resident and community volunteer. The Arts Department recently released a call for artists to propose designs for a permanent artwork installation at the ITC Sculpture Garden. Awwad-Rafferty volunteered to serve as the primary Commission member for the artwork selection panel and Stevens volunteered to be secondary.

9. Food Insecurity

Parks and Recreation has not been contacted about expanding community garden spaces yet. Food banks are getting support. There are two food banks in Moscow. The Weekend Food for Kids is wrapping up the summer season and then the school districts will take over. About 170 food bags are given out each week. Faunce will send out a link to UI Center of Volunteerism and Social Action for interested students may want to volunteer at the Food Bank. Backyard Harvest has picked up unsold food at the Farmer's Market for distribution to Latah, Whitman and Nez Perce Counties. A table is set up in front of the food bank with fruits and vegetables.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Restorative Justice Event

The subcommittee began meeting again and is following up on the initial Restorative Justice event. They would like to have second panel that focuses on training rather than solving a specific issue. The subcommittee will be meeting with the three presenters from the first panel. This item will be added to the September agenda.

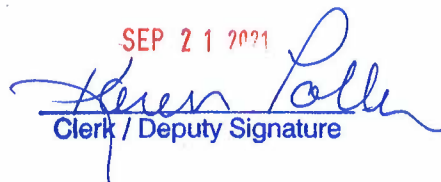
ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

Ken Faunce, Chair

Minutes Approved On

SEP 21 2021


Clerk / Deputy Signature