

FAIR & AFFORDABLE HOUSING COMMISSION



Randy Baukol
Commission Chair
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Regular Meeting ~Minutes~

Aimee Hennrich
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<https://www.ci.moscow.id.us/358/Fair-Affordable-Housing-Commission>

**Thursday
August 5, 2021**

5:15 PM

**Paul Mann Building
221 E Second Street**

The meeting was called to order at 5:17 PM

MEMBERS PRESENT: Randy Baukol, Chair; Jo Ellen Force (virtual), Linda Pike (virtual), Bruce Pitman, Olivia Sivula
MEMBERS ABSENT: Casey Holcomb-Hawkes, Arthur Garro, Rebecca Marquez
OTHERS: Tina Hilding, Gina Taruscio
STAFF: Aimee Hennrich

REGULAR AGENDA

1. Approval of May 6, 2021 Minutes

Presentation of minutes for approval.

Pike moved for approval of the minutes as presented, seconded by Force. Vote by Acclamation; Ayes: (4) Baukol, Force, Pike, Pitman. Nays: None. Abstentions: (1) Sivula. Motion carried.

2. Sustainable Environment Commission Discussion

Hilding from the Climate Action Working Group (CAWG), a subcommittee of the Sustainable Environment Commission (SEC), provided a presentation on climate change. CAWG requested insight from the Commissioners about what would be the most ideal and effective way to mitigate climate change from the affordable housing perspective.

Some of the most effective strategies used in other locations are building more efficient new houses, as it is difficult to retrofit old and/or existing houses. The SEC suggested implementing a program to incentivize insulation and weatherization, as well as possibly address planning and zoning concerns for affordable housing. There was discussion regarding modifying City Code that is a barrier for affordable housing, such as water use standards, banning natural gas, eliminating on-site parking requirements, narrowing street standards, reducing lot sizes, and forgoing R-1 and R-2 Zoning Districts. The Commission also talked about the 20 Minute City concept.

Building efficient houses could possibly increase the cost to developers, making it less affordable for the buyers. Moscow Affordable Housing Trust (MAHT) recently included environmental stewardship as part of their strategic planning discussions. The SEC reviewed phasing out natural gas appliances in favor of electric and how older natural gas appliances usually end up being utilized by the lower income population. It was suggested that the City offer a subsidy to retrofit for gas appliances instead of electric.

The Commission decided to revisit the climate change request from CAWG at the next meeting and will supply a formal response at a later time.

3. Assessment of Fair Housing Survey Questions Discussion

Commissioners discussed the written survey questions and considered the possibility of adding options for certain questions or using a rating system rather than a check box. It was suggested that a comment section be included, to give people the option of including additional information as appropriate. Conversation continued about survey methodology and formatting for digital and mail forms. The Commission directed Staff to edit include "Affordable" in the title and throughout the document as applicable, and will discuss adding more questions at the next meeting.

4. Discuss Potential Topics for IFHC Annual Training

Hennrich requested the Commission consider potential topics for Intermountain Fair Housing Council training. The Commission discussed the work and trainings that has been done before, and considered continuing moving forward with that. Sivula requested a webinar on zoning ordinances and amendments, specifically regarding affordable housing impacts.

REPORTS

1. Taruscio gave an update about City Council actions to designate funding for affordable housing in the 2022 budget.

2. Baukol reported that the Moscow Affordable Housing Trust joined the Commission for tabling at the Farmers Market.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

New Commissioner Olivia Sivula was introduced.

UPCOMING EVENTS / MEETINGS

Next Fair & Affordable Housing Commission regular meeting scheduled for September 2, 2021.

The meeting adjourned at 6:50 PM

 , vice-chair 10/7/21

Randy Baukol, Chair