

# HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION



Erin Agidius  
Commission Vice-Chair  
[hrc@ci.moscow.id.us](mailto: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,  
January 16, 2024**

**4:00 PM**

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

**The meeting was called to order at 4:06 p.m.**

**PRESENT:** Tara Roberts, Elizabeth Stevens, Rula Awwad-Rafferty, Ducati Schiff, Jana Argersinger, Erin Agidius

**ABSENT:** Lysa Salsbury, Nick Smiley-Kallas

**STAFF:** James Fry Jr. (staff liaison), Karen Potter (deputy clerk), Bryce Blankenship (City Council Liaison)

*Vice Chair Agidius was running late; Awwad-Rafferty volunteered to chair the meeting.*

## REGULAR AGENDA

### 1. Approval of Human Rights Commission Minutes for December 19, 2023 (ACTION ITEM)

Minutes presented for approval.

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

Stevens moved to accept the minutes, and Roberts seconded the motion. Vote: Ayes: Five. 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.

Updates were made to the event calendar.

### 3. 2024 MLK Breakfast Sponsorship (ACTION ITEM)

Vote to approve sponsorship of the MLK Breakfast for \$750.00.

**PROPOSED ACTIONS:** Vote to approve sponsorship of the above event; or take such other action deemed appropriate.

This event was approved by City Administration prior to the meeting.

Stevens moved to sponsor the MLK Breakfast for \$750.00, and Argersinger seconded the motion. Vote: Ayes: Five. Nays: None. Abstentions: None. Motion carried.

**4. National Black Leadership Alliance Event in February.**

Vote to sponsor an event with the National Black Leadership Alliance.

**PROPOSED ACTIONS:** Vote to sponsor the above event for \$300.00; or take such other action deemed appropriate.

The following was read from the Idaho Black Community Alliance website: The Idaho Black Community Alliance, a nonprofit 501c3 organization, is committed to the promotion and preservation of Black Culture and Community in Idaho. Our overarching goal is to identify, engage, and empower both youth and adults through education and meaningful connections, with a specific focus on fostering Black businesses, supporting Black professionals, engaging the community, and actively promoting and preserving our rich cultural heritage.

This event will be held on Sunday, February 4, 2024, from 7-8 p.m. at the Kenworthy, in the backstage reception area. It was approved by City Administration prior to the meeting.

Roberts moved to sponsor the Idaho Black Community Alliance event for \$300.00, and Stevens seconded the motion. Vote: Ayes: Six. Nays: None. Abstentions: None. Motion carried.

**5. Election of Chair and Vice Chair (ACTION ITEM)**

Nomination and election of Commission Chair and Vice Chair positions.

**PROPOSED ACTIONS:** Elect individuals to fill the above positions or take other such action deemed appropriate.

Agidius was nominated as Commission Chair.

Awwad-Rafferty moved, and Roberts seconded the motion. Vote: Ayes: Six. Nays: None. Abstentions: None. Motion carried.

Stevens was nominated as Commission Vice Chair.

Argersinger moved, and Roberts seconded the motion. Vote: Ayes: Six. Nays: None. Abstentions: None. Motion carried.

**6. 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 County Human Rights Task Force Report – Joann Muneta**

All 220 seats for the MLK Breakfast have been spoken for. A Zoom link will be available. The event is free, and the hot breakfast is sponsored by Tim Gresback. Art and Essay Contest submittals are due on January 25. The theme of the contest is “Freedom of Expression—Celebrating our Libraries.” The awards will be presented on February 10 in the Lecompte Auditorium. The goal of this contest is to encourage students to think about Martin Luther King's issues as they relate to their lives. The Latah County Human Rights Task Force is also sponsoring the Idaho Black Community Alliance event on February 4.

### **2. Human Rights 101 – Social Justice Forum**

Arrangements for event speakers continue. As soon as panelists for finalized, Steven will find a venue. The forum is slated for March, contingent on venue and speaker availability.

### **3. Renaming Indian Hills Park**

There was no report.

### **4. Report on Hate Incidents / Moscow as an Inclusive Community**

Awwad-Rafferty and Roberts will continue to follow up on the incidents from the football games.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## **ADJOURN**

The meeting adjourned at 4:42 p.m.

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Awwad-Rafferty, Acting Chair

# Moscow Human Rights Commission

## 2024 Planning Calendar

| Event                                      | Day of Week | Date                   | Time             | Location                 |
|--------------------------------------------|-------------|------------------------|------------------|--------------------------|
|                                            |             |                        |                  |                          |
| Monthly Meeting                            | Tues.       | March 19 <sup>th</sup> | 4 p.m.           | Mayor's Conf. Rm.        |
| Monthly Meeting                            | Tues.       | April 16 <sup>th</sup> | 4 p.m.           | Mayor's Conf. Rm.        |
| Social Justice Forum -<br>Human Rights 101 | Wed.        | April 3rd              | 7 p.m.           | City Council<br>Chambers |
| Monthly Meeting                            | Tues.       | May 21 <sup>st</sup>   | 4 p.m.           | Mayor's Conf. Rm.        |
| Monthly Meeting                            | Tues.       | June 18th              | 4 p.m.           | Mayor's Conf. Rm.        |
| Juneteenth                                 | Wed.        | June 19th              |                  |                          |
| Monthly Meeting                            | Tues.       | July 16                | 4 p.m.           | Mayor's Conf. Rm.        |
| Great Moscow Food Drive                    | Sat.        | August 3rd             | 8:00 a.m. - Noon | Farmers Market           |
| Monthly Meeting                            | Tues.       | August 20th            | 4 p.m.           | Mayor's Conf. Rm.        |
| Inclusive Communities Month                |             | September              |                  |                          |
| Monthly Meeting                            | Tues.       | September 17           | 4 p.m.           | Mayor's Conf. Rm.        |
| Indigenous People's Day                    | Mon.        | Oct. 14                |                  |                          |
| Monthly Meeting                            | Tues.       | Oct. 15                | 4 p.m.           | Mayor's Conf. Rm.        |
| Monthly Meeting                            | Tues.       | Nov. 19                | 4 p.m.           | Mayor's Conf. Rm.        |
| Monthly Meeting                            | Tues.       | Dec. 17                | 4 p.m.           | Mayor's Conf. Rm.        |
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|                                            |             |                        |                  |                          |



University of Idaho

School of Journalism  
and Mass Media

February 16, 2024

Moscow Human Rights Commission  
c/o Karen Potter  
VIA email: [kpotter@ci.moscow.id.us](mailto:kpotter@ci.moscow.id.us)

Dear Chair Agidius, Vice Chair Stevens, and commissioners.

I am writing to seek the endorsement and support of the Moscow Human Rights Commission for our annual Oppenheimer Media Ethics Symposium. I'm pleased to announce that we have booked three speakers for this year's event, which will be Tuesday, April 9, in Moscow.

Our theme is press freedom in tribal communities, with a panel discussion at 12:30 p.m. on campus and a 6:30 p.m. screening of the documentary *Bad Press* at the Kenworthy on Main Street. Our speakers will be Angel Ellis, the editor who challenged the Muscogee tribal council, and the producers of the documentary, Becca Landsberry-Baker and Joe Peeler, producers of the film. Ms. Landsberry-Baker is also the executive director of the Indigenous Journalists Association, formerly the Native American Journalists Association.

We plan to include representatives of the Coeur d'Alene and Nez Perce tribes in a panel discussion about issues in regional tribal communities. Because of your commission's interest in promoting better understanding among Moscow residents of diverse backgrounds, I am inviting you to be a co-sponsor and to attend the symposium. We are seeking sponsorships of up to \$500 from various community groups to supplement our annual gift from the Oppenheimer family of Boise.

I plan to attend your meeting on **Tuesday, Feb. 20, at 4 p.m.** to talk more about our symposium's 12-year track record and ways in which we plan to engage University of Idaho students and the community at large. Please feel free to contact me before then if you have any questions. My e-mail address is [kbird@uidaho.edu](mailto:kbird@uidaho.edu) and my telephone number is 208-669-4080. Thank you for considering this proposal.

Sincerely,

*Kenton Bird, Ph.D.*

Professor Emeritus of Journalism and Mass Media  
Coordinator, Oppenheimer Ethics Symposium