

# HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION



Erin Agidius  
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## Regular Meeting ~Minutes~

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

**Tuesday,  
March 19, 2024**

**4:00 PM**

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

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

**PRESENT:** Erin Agidius, Tara Roberts (Zoom), Elizabeth Stevens (Zoom), Ducati Schiff, Jana Argersinger (Zoom), Lysa Salsbury, Nick Smiley-Kallas, Greg Meyer, Emily Mowrer

**ABSENT:** Rula Awwad-Rafferty

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

**GUEST:** Kenton Bird

## REGULAR AGENDA

### 1. Approval of Human Rights Commission Minutes for January 16, 2024 (ACTION ITEM)

Minutes presented for approval.

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

Smiley-Kallas moved to accept the minutes, and Mowrer seconded the motion. Vote: Ayes: Nine. 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. Sponsorship of the Oppenheimer Media Ethics Symposium (ACTION ITEM)

Vote to sponsor the Oppenheimer Media Ethics Symposium with the UI School of Journalism and Mass Media (JAMM).

**PROPOSED ACTIONS:** Vote to approve sponsorship of the Oppenheimer Media Ethics Symposium for \$500.00; or provide staff further direction.

Guest Kenton Bird handed out flyers and presented information about the event.

Salsbury moved to sponsor the event for \$500.00, and Argersinger seconded the motion. Vote: Ayes: Nine. Nays: None. Abstentions: None. Motion carried.

**4. 2025 Human Rights Commission Budget (ACTION ITEM)**

The proposed budget for the Human Rights Commission for FY 2024-2025 is \$6,000.

**PROPOSED ACTIONS:** Vote to approve the budget for the Commission for \$6,000; or take such other action deemed appropriate.

The Budget Request letter was made available to Commission members. There was discussion.

Argersinger moved to submit the proposed FY 24-25 HRC budget for \$6,000, and Meyer seconded the motion. Vote: Ayes: Nine. Nays: None. Abstentions: None. Motion carried.

**5. 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 – Joann Muneta**

Agidius read a task force update provided by Muneta, who was absent from the meeting. The MLK Breakfast was a great intergenerational event held for the first time at the 1912 Center. It was sold out with 120 people in attendance. Fifteen high school students helped with the event. The Rosa Parks Award was given to Rebekah Riehm, and the Community Award was given to Kathy Dawes. Mario Pile provided an address, calling everyone to work together to further an inclusive community. Fourteen awards were given for the Art & Essay Contest and were presented by Mayor Bettge. In February, the winners' submittals were displayed at the Moscow Chamber of Commerce. Task force members attended and assisted at the Gala for Black Excellence sponsored by the UI Black Cultural Center. Work has started on educating the public about the value of UI diversity, equity, and inclusion programs.

**2. Great Moscow Food Drive – August 3 (Tentative) – Collaboration with the Latah County Human Rights Task Force**

The Commission will be collaborating with the task force on the Great Moscow Food Drive. Food donations will be dropped off at several locations around Moscow. Muneta will bring a signup sheet for Commission members to help with the event as the event draws closer.

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

Stevens will be meeting with the panelists via Zoom prior to this event. Roberts is working on a press release. Corey Oglesby, City Media Specialist, will be contacted regarding a Zoom link for attendees. A flyer for the event was distributed at the meeting. It will be posted on the City's website and Facebook page. Karen will forward information to Commissioners regarding subscribing to the City's notifications.

### **4. Juneteenth – Presentation by Aman McClod**

Ken Faunce, past Commission chair, previously mentioned that Moscow and Pullman would host Juneteenth alternately so activities could be coordinated and not duplicated. Agidius will check to see the status of this previous arrangement. There was discussion regarding the possibility of transportation for attendees between Moscow and Pullman. Argersinger volunteered to help out with the event.

### **5. Renaming of Indian Hills Park**

Since the resignation of Kristin Haltinner, this effort has not been followed up. Previously, one of Haltinner's students had prepared a report on their findings, but it had not been reviewed by every Commissioner. Also, the report was not inconclusive since only one person had been interviewed for the project. Smiley-Kallas offered to organize stakeholders to see if this project can continue to move forward. He will prepare a one-page report of his findings. If, in the future, the project is not picked up, the issue will be tabled and removed from the agenda.

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

No new incidents of hate were reported. Roberts prepared a letter regarding the incidents at the football game in December, which Awwad-Rafferty reported to the Commission. Agidius will email the letter to Commission members for feedback. Once it is finalized, it will be forwarded to the staff liaison for city administration approval.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## **ADJOURN**

The meeting adjourned at 4:55 p.m.

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Erin Agidius, Chair

## Moscow Human Rights Commission

## 2024 Planning Calendar

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