

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION



Erin Agidius
Chair
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Regular Meeting ~Minutes~

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

**Tuesday,
September 17, 2024**

4:00 PM

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

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Erin Agidius, Elizabeth Stevens, Nick Smiley-Kallas, Emily Mowrer, Greg Meyer, Tara Roberts
ABSENT: Jana Argersinger, Ducati Schiff, Rula Awwad-Rafferty, Jonathan Hukill
STAFF: Bill Belknap, Corey Oglesby, Anthony Dahlinger (staff liaison), Karen Potter (deputy clerk), Bryce Blankenship (council liaison)
GUEST: William Janzer, Moscow, Idaho

REGULAR AGENDA

1. Approval of Human Rights Commission Minutes for August 20, 2024 (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 Meyer seconded the motion. Vote: Ayes: Six. 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.

There were no updates to the calendar.

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.

Janzer is a member of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance and informed the commission that there is anti-Israel, anti-Jewish sentiment in our community. He has personally experienced slurs and said that WSU and UI students have been attacked. He requested that the

City of Moscow and/or the commission adopt a resolution to support the IRHA to combat Anti-Semitism and keep Jewish people safe. Commission members will research this topic and come together to discuss it. This item will be included on the October agenda.

REPORTS

1. City Supervisor Bill Belknap

City Supervisor Belknap attended the meeting to clarify the commission's mission and answer questions about its' role.

Belknap reviewed the Moscow City Code Title 3, Chapter 12-1, pertaining to the Human Rights Commission's purpose and duties:

Sec. 12-1: Purposes and Duties. A. To affirm, encourage and initiate programs and services within the City designed to eliminate discrimination, improve human relations, and effectuate the spirit and intent of applicable human rights legislation. In these efforts, the Commission may enlist the support of community groups and public agencies.

B. To recommend to the Mayor and the Council policies and programs with the objective of implementing Commission goals and objectives concerning the civil and human rights of persons and groups in the community.

C. The Commission shall work with City officials to ensure that the City continues to be a leader in extending equal opportunity to its inhabitants, including but not limited employment opportunities in city government, training for city jobs, equality of services provided, equality of all before the law, and equal treatment of all by holders of City licenses, contracts and privileges.

D. The Commission shall endeavor to ascertain the status of civil and human rights in the community. (Ord. 2004-25, 05/03/04)

Because sometimes the language can be challenging to execute, he provided the following clarification:

- The Human Rights Commission is a citizen advisory committee that works with the City Council and the Mayor.
- Its purpose is not to generate ideas but to advise and provide recommendations regarding policies and programs. It can initiate recommendations but not administer them, i.e., specific programs.
- The commission aims to prevent discrimination and ensure that the city provides equal services. They review programs, policies, and activities and forward recommendations.
- Our state constitution prohibits commissions from donating to private organizations or events. They also may not fund alcohol at events.
- Any event or activity that requests a financial contribution from the city, uses city resources for advertising, etc., or has a monetary amount attached to it will be reviewed by the staff liaison.
- The staff liaison will forward sponsorship requests to the City Administrator. If there are further questions, the City Administration will forward the request to the mayor.

There was discussion and questions.

A community member has submitted public records requests and is tracking commission events and funding. This individual has also requested that the commission be defunded.

Belknap requested that the commission stay consistent and within the boundaries outlined by the state code. All sponsorships and funding must align with the mission of the commission.

When asked to sponsor, the commission should ask, "How will it align with our mission and charge?" He also asked that members watch "gray areas."

Two events were denied thus far this year:

- A private event in Pullman (and alcohol was also served)
- One dealing with abortion rights (not currently allowed by state law)

Those events that the commission has historically supported, such as Juneteenth and the Martin Luther King Breakfast, will continue to be sponsored. UI events may also be sponsored if they align with HRC's mission.

City Administration is creating a policy to address commission sponsorships which will be completed by the end of the year.

2. Media Specialist Corey Oglesby

Oglesby oversees the city's press releases, website, calendar, social media, and other communication. He provided submission guidelines for members for these items. An event can be posted only if a commission is a sponsor or a partner. Commission affiliation should be crystal clear for a social media post. The text must be easily understood and contain the commission logo for flyers. A post with a flyer should include the title and date. It is preferred that the information in the poster be mentioned in the post as well. Two weeks' lead time for submission of a post is also preferred. Mowrer will contact Oglesby to add more language to the HRC webpage. The city website is currently in transition. The Bias Reporting System information and form will also be added to that webpage.

3. Inclusive Communities Month's Events

This year's Inclusive Communities Month event was the United Against Hate Forum. The Community Potluck and Community Unity Walk will not be held due to a lack of planning time. Suggestions for future years included:

- A different event date when everyone is back from vacation, and the students have returned.
- Combine Inclusive Communities Month with an anti-hate event.
- It was also suggested that Inclusive Communities Month be changed to "Inclusive Communities Week" with just one highlighted event and possibly a potluck.

An internal mechanism could be created for events, such as developing a subcommittee for upcoming events and activities, including the MLK Breakfast and Juneteenth. This subcommittee

could meet with the commission to update them on its progress. Council Member Blankenship will investigate the possibility of expanding a subcommittee to non-members, who would then report back to the commission.

4. Latah Human Rights Task Force Report – Joann Muneta

The United Against Hate Forum went well, with over 100 people in attendance. Those who attended wanted more information about hate. The theme of the Art and Essay Contest is “The Promise of Democracy.” Submissions are due at the end of January, and a presentation of the winners is tentatively scheduled for February 8th.

5. Subcommittee Report – Market and Messaging – Roberts / Mowrer

The Bias Report System brochure has been updated and will be printed. The subcommittee will meet with Oglesby regarding the website.

6. Human Trafficking Exhibit – Awwad-Rafferty

There was no report.

7. Food Insecurity – Smiley-Kallas

Another mobile food bank will be coming into the community. Westside Food Bank has taken over gleaning for Backyard Harvest, which is no longer in business. This item will be removed from future agendas.

8. Gritman Medical Center Accessibility Letter – Agidius / Roberts

The drafted letter was sent to City Administration and will be forwarded to the City ADA Coordinator.

9. Support for Library Bill (Post Hoc Statement) – Argersinger

There was no report.

10. Renaming Indian Hills Park

When this park was named, it went through the approval process and was approved by the citizens and the City of Moscow. Agidius will email Kristen Haltinner, who had initial concerns about the park’s name, to update her. This item will be dropped from future agendas.

11. Sponsorship of Room Rental for the Native American Heritage Month Program – Agidius

UI Libraries contacted the commission with a request to fund the room rental for the Native American Heritage Month Program. This item will be submitted to the staff liaison and, if approved, will go to vote at the October meeting.

12. Report on Hate Incidents / Moscow as an Inclusive Community

One community member reached out about an incident and was contacted but did not return the call. Dahlinger clarified there have been five Bias Reports in 2024, and of those five:

- (1) active investigation for malicious harassment
- (1) bar fight with racial slurs where three individuals were criminally charged

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 5:08 p.m.

Erin Agidius, Chair

Moscow Human Rights Commission

2024 Planning Calendar

[illegible]