

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,
November 19, 2024**

4:00 PM

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

The meeting was called to order at 4:05 p.m.

PRESENT: Elizabeth Stevens (Vice Chair), Nick Smiley-Kallas, Jana Argersinger, Jonathan Hukill, Tara Roberts, Rula Awwad-Rafferty, Emily Mowrer, Greg Meyer

ABSENT: Erin Agidius, Ducati Schiff

STAFF: David Hathaway (staff liaison), Karen Poter (deputy clerk), Bryce Blankenship (council liaison)

REGULAR AGENDA

1. Approval of Human Rights Commission Minutes for October 15, 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 Meyer seconded the motion. Vote: Ayes: Eight. 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.

REPORTS

1. **Latah Human Rights Task Force Report – Joann Muneta**

The task force has opened nominations for the Rosa Parks Awards. Nominations will be due on January 11, 2025, and winners will be announced at the MLK Breakfast on January 25, 2025. Two awards will be presented: one is a community award for a recipient who has a history of commitment and achievement, and one for a youth who shows promise. The task force is reopening its request to the Palouse Mall management to upgrade entrances with automatic doors. They want to rewrite the previous letter and submit it to the appropriate individual as they are not confident that it was ever delivered to the proper person. The task force is looking into legalities. It was noted that the mall is a public space open to everyone, making it different from the access issues with Gritman Medical Center, whose access is limited by HIPAA laws. It was suggested that the City Council send the letter. Smiley-Kallas will draft a letter and contact City Attorney Bautista. If it is not legal to insist the entrances be made accessible, the letter will at least inform mall management of the commission's feelings and let them know it would be great if the doors were updated for all to access.

2. **Subcommittee Report – Market and Messaging – Roberts / Mowrer**

No report.

3. **Human Trafficking Exhibit – Awwad-Rafferty**

No report.

4. **Gritman Medical Center Accessibility Letter – Agidius / Roberts**

Hukill will forward the letter he submitted to the chair to all commission members. There was no other report. This item will be removed from the December agenda.

5. **Resolution for International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance**

There was no update from the City Council regarding adopting the resolution, and Janzer has not been contacted. The City of Pullman is in the process of adopting a cease-fire resolution. It was noted that some of the commissioners felt that the Alliance resolution was too specific to one group. The commission's mission statement is concerned with the rights of all people, and it should be a working definition creating space for all viewpoints. It is also a current political issue. A future social justice forum was suggested to emphasize religious tolerance.

6. **Nez Perce Tribe Press Release**

There was no report regarding adding a territorial acknowledgment to City meetings. Deputy Clerk Potter will send inclusive statements issued by the City in the past to the commissioners by email.

7. **Support for Library Bill (Post Hoc Statement)**

Argersinger passed out a draft of the post hoc statement affirming City Resolution 2024-6 to be forwarded to the City Council. There was discussion and suggestions for change. Argersinger

will forward the updated document by email to commissioners for input. Once finalized by Argersinger, it will be added to the commission letterhead and given to City Council Liaison Blankenship to give to the council by December 2.

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

There were no reported incidents. It was suggested that a community flyer campaign be held to distribute the updated Bias Incident Reporting Flyer. Corey Oglesby will be contacted to see if the flyer can be posted on city social media and the website.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Staff Liaison David Hathaway announced changes in sponsorship approvals for all city commissions:

- City Administrator Belknap will approve sponsorships under \$500
- City Council will vote to approve sponsorships over \$500.

Because the City Council meets twice a month, approving those sponsorships will require extra submittal time.

2. Events that the City of Moscow has historically sponsored at the request of the Human Rights Commission are:

- Indigenous Peoples Day
- MLK Breakfast
- Juneteenth
- Pride Fest
- Inclusive Communities Month
- Sheikh Award

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

Elizabeth Stevens Co-Chair & Acting Chair

Moscow Human Rights Commission

2024 Planning Calendar

[illegible]

The Human Rights Commission of the City of Moscow, in its capacity as citizen advisory committee to the Mayor and City Council, strongly states its post-hoc affirmation of City Resolution 2024-06 (passed on 4 March 2024) in support of the Latah County Library District Board of Trustees and Directors—to the full extent that is consistent with current State of Idaho law.

The City Resolution stipulates that access to public library materials is a First Amendment Right, and the Human Rights Commission’s official charge is to support the City’s “objectives concerning the **civil and human rights of persons and groups in the community**”—to “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 to . . . **equality of services provided, equality of all before the law, and equal treatment of all by holders of City licenses, contracts and privileges**” (City Code Title 3, Chapter 12-1).