

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

ABSENT: Erin Agidius

STAFF: Anthony Dahlinger (staff liaison), Karen Potter (deputy clerk), Bryce Blankenship (council liaison)

REGULAR AGENDA

1. Approval of Human Rights Commission Minutes for November 19, 2024 (ACTION ITEM) Minutes presented for approval.

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

Meyer moved to accept the minutes, and Hukill seconded the motion. It was suggested that Item 4 under Reports be amended to read:

Hukill will forward the letter he submitted to the chair to all commission members.
There was discussion and the commission agreed that their concerns have been addressed. This item will be removed from the December agenda.

The commission voted to approve the amendment as stated.

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.

Additions to the calendar included:

Black Excellence Gala, January 31, 2025, at 7 p.m. in the UI International Ballroom.

3. Sponsorship of the MLK Breakfast (ACTION ITEM)

PROPOSED ACTIONS: Vote to approve \$750.00 for sponsorship of the MLK Breakfast to be held on January 25, 2025, at the 1912 Center; or provide staff further direction.

Roberts moved to approve the sponsorship for the MLK Breakfast for \$750.00, and Argersinger seconded the motion. Vote: Ayes: Nine. Nays: None. Abstentions: None. Motion carried.

4. 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. Staff Liaison Update

Because the Bias Reporting System is a city-run program, incidents go through law enforcement initially to determine if a crime has been committed. If there are no violations, the matter will be forwarded to the city attorney. Dahlinger will continue to update the commission on the number of reported cases each month. A link to this system will be added to the updated city website. Those uncomfortable sharing an incident with law enforcement may contact any city employee or Whitcom dispatch for direction. If commissioners are informed of an incident, they may also contact the police department for follow-up. The poster will be updated by the January meeting with the city and police logos and then posted on the city's social media pages. It may also be copied by the deputy clerk for distribution around the community.

2. Latah Human Rights Task Force Report – Joann Muneta

Muneta could not attend the meeting but provided an email report on task force activities. The task force is:

- Currently collaborating with the United Church on the presentation by Heath Druzin.
- Working on the MLK Breakfast scheduled for January 25.
- Sending a letter to the Idaho Board of Education and Idaho Legislature DEI Working Group regarding the importance of diversity, support, and inclusion to all universities and the state.
- Continuing work on the MLK Art and Essay Contest and Rosa Parks Human Rights Achievement Awards.

- Planning for an event, “United Against Hate Part Two: Building Community,” which will occur sometime in the spring. The task force welcomes the commission’s input on this project.

The Palouse Mall manager has contacted the task force, and the mall has agreed to fix the outside accessibility door button on the eastside entrance. They will also install accessibility equipment on all three main mall entrances.

3. Subcommittee Report – Marketing and Messaging – Roberts / Mowrer

The Bias Report System poster was discussed in Reports, Item 1.

4. Human Trafficking Exhibit – Awwad-Rafferty

No report.

5. Palouse Accessibility Letter – Smiley

The Palouse Mall letter was discussed during the Latah County Human Rights Task Force report (Item 2, last paragraph above). WSU Engineering students have set up an accessibility challenge course if the commission or city council might be interested in participating. This item will be changed to “Accessibility, Advocacy, and Education” on future agendas.

6. Educational Forum – Religious Tolerance

The commissioners were asked to develop a list of movie options for a forum that promotes tolerance. The film, “Where the Olive Trees Weep” and/or possibly a film series were suggested. Roberts will contact Kenworthy about open dates and arrangements. Commissioners were asked to email their ideas to the commission members for movies on religious tolerance and/or working together.

7. Territorial Acknowledgement at City Meetings – Blankenship

Blankenship emailed the city council, city administrator, and city attorney regarding reading a territorial acknowledgment before city meetings. There was a discussion about a possible MOU between the city and tribes. UI has one and a local church is also working on one. The commissioners will contact Yolanda Bisbee, UI Tribal Liaison, and possibly some tribes for their guidance and feelings about such an acknowledgment. Once commissioners have information, the staff liaison will forward it to city leadership.

8. Inclusivity Statements

The city's prior inclusivity statements were emailed after the November 2024 meeting. The language in these statements protects religious expression. Commissioners were asked to point community members to these statements if they have concerns.

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

The revised Post Hoc Statement for the library bill was read. It will be added to the commission’s letterhead and forwarded to Dahlinger to pass onto the city council.

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

No incidents were reported.

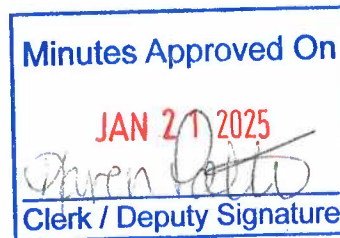
At the end of the meeting, there was a discussion regarding a future commission letter affirming the value of DEI offices at the university. Dahlinger stated that it was outside of the city's purview. The commission could suggest the city's support for lost DEI programs. This would not be a legislative issue, but rather, it would be a way for the city to formulate ideas for supplementing these lost programs. The programs were a part of our community and part of our community values. A subcommittee consisting of Awaad-Rafferty, Argersinger, and Meyer will meet to find a way to weigh in on such situations and approach the city.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. This meeting will likely be the last for Council Liaison Blakenship as council members rotate within the various city commissions. He thanked the commission members for their great work.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 4:58 p.m.



Elizabeth Stevens, Co-Chair & Acting Chair