

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,
March 18, 2025**

4:00 PM

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

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

PRESENT: Tara Roberts (Acting Chair), Jana Argersinger (Zoom), Greg Meyer, Rula Awwad-Rafferty, Emily Mowrer, John Freeland, Vanessa Stevens (Zoom)
ABSENT: Erin Agidius, Elizabeth Stevens, Jonathan Hukill, Nicholas Smiley-Kallas
STAFF: Anthony Dahlinger (staff liaison), Karen Potter (deputy clerk), Julia Parker (council liaison)

New member Vanessa Stevens was welcomed, and introductions were made.

REGULAR AGENDA

1. Mission of the Human Rights Commission

The mission statement was read at the beginning of the meeting.

2. Approval of Human Rights Commission Minutes for February 18, 2025 (ACTION ITEM)

Minutes presented for approval.

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

Freeland moved to accept the minutes, and Awwad-Rafferty seconded the motion. Vote: Ayes: Six. Nays: None. Abstentions: None. Motion carried.

3. 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.

Upcoming events include:

- Addressing Hate in Idaho, April (details TBD)
- Unity for Community, Saturday, May 17, 1912 Center, 1-4:00 p.m.

- Great Moscow Food Drive, Saturday, August 2

4. Sponsorship of the “Addressing Hate and Housing Forum” (ACTION ITEM)

The Fair and Affordable Housing Commission has requested sponsorship for a community meeting on addressing hate in Idaho, led by the Intermountain Fair Housing Council.

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

Freeland moved to sponsor the above event for \$300.00, and Awwad-Rafferty seconded the motion. Vote: Ayes: Six. 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.

None.

REPORTS

1. Latah County Human Rights Task Force Report

The three-hour Unity for Community event is now scheduled for May 17. It is an open conference. Because this event is not a good fit for the commission’s mission, the task force has withdrawn its request for an HRC sponsorship. Living Voices will return to the area to present “Home Front/War Front” at Troy Middle and High Schools. The presentation focuses on women during World War I, including those of color. The Latah Historical Society will be a co-sponsor.

2. Inclusive Communities Month

A subcommittee was formed for Inclusive Communities Month activities and will report back to the commission at its April meeting. Subcommittee members are Roberts, Freeland, Mowrer, and Awwad-Rafferty.

3. Accessibility, Advocacy, and Education - Social Justice Forum – Accessibility Experiential Learning Activity

Pullman used a challenge course to educate the public about accessibility. Previously, the commission assisted in planning a downtown walking activity that involved the city, county, and UI. Awwad-Rafferty suggested hosting an experiential activity, where a wheelchair navigates a challenge course to identify accessibility issues, followed by a panel discussion. Once a theme has been finalized, this event may be a stand-alone activity or a part of Inclusive Communities Month.

4. Supporting Immigrants/Undocumented People in the Community

Earlier in the month, Agidius updated commissioners by email regarding the UI Legal Clinic’s recent efforts to provide materials and legal aid to immigrants and undocumented people in the community. It may be possible to partner with the Legal Clinic at some point in the future.

would like to have information to pass out at tabling events this summer. Mowrer will take the lead on obtaining the cards. On future agendas, this item will be titled “Supporting Immigrants, Undocumented People, and Related Groups in the Community.” This item will include immigrants, undocumented people, children who are born in the US to undocumented parents, and those who are perceived as undocumented.

5. The City of Moscow’s Response to Immigrants/Undocumented People in the Community

Dahlinger stated that our police department officers are not federal agents and are not deputized as such for immigration purposes. MPD officers cannot enforce federal law, and they do not take direction from federal agencies. If a tactical situation arises that requires our officers to provide safety for our federal partners, we will step up to help.

6. Subcommittee Report – Human Relations Programs Support – Awwad-Rafferty, Argersinger, Meyer and Stevens

The subcommittee has identified that students may face food insecurity and a lack of a welcoming community since the closure of the university’s DEI offices. The subcommittee has proposed hosting a free dinner for UI students to provide a broad welcome and get services to any students who might be affected by the closure of the DEI Offices. The subcommittee’s report was distributed to attendees. A dinner has been tentatively planned for two dates: either late April or early May and in September and will be held in the 1912 Center’s Great Room. Invitations will be extended to students and groups across campus. Potential partners/co-hosts may include the International Programs Office and student groups such as the Native American Student Association. The dinner aligns with the commission’s mission and will provide an opportunity to identify the needs of students who are affected. There was discussion. St. Augustine’s was suggested as a venue due to its proximity to campus and its commercial kitchen. With diverse backgrounds, some students may not feel comfortable coming to a church. Providing snacks or a simple dessert to celebrate the end of the semester was also suggested. V. Stevens said the UI Committee on Climate and Belonging might be willing to co-sponsor or donate to the event. The subcommittee will research dates, caterers, and locations and report back to the commission. Awwad-Rafferty will complete the sponsorship form for \$1,000 and submit it to Agidius for her signature, which will be forwarded to the staff liaison.

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

Roberts has been working with Corey Oglesby on the city's website, and Mowrer has updated the commission’s brochure for use at events. Once changes are made to the Bias Report System flyer, it will be forwarded to Dahlinger for approval.

8. Human Trafficking Exhibit – Awwad-Rafferty

No report.

9. Strengthening the Relationship between the City of Moscow and Tribes – Awwad-Rafferty

No report. V. Stevens offered to help with this item.

10. Juneteenth

No report.

11. Human Rights Commission Day at the Market. Possible dates: May 24, May 3, May 31, August 30, and June 14.

The dates listed above are in order of the commissioners' preference, as determined by the survey results. The market staff will notify the commission of their selected dates for HRC Day at the Market as the opening of the Farmers Market approaches.

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

Muneta forwarded an email from a community business owner who has been experiencing issues with an individual parking outside their business and yelling anti-LGBTQ and other derogatory remarks at staff and customers. Does the commission have a role in this situation, and is it in the commission's mission and limits to offer a resolution? After discussion, it was noted that the commission has no authority to address this issue. Dahlinger explained state and city codes, followed by questions. Everything that can be done has been done thus far under the law. Employees of this business may prosecute this person civilly if they desire. There was discussion about offering de-escalation training and education programs, such as Green Dot and Stop the Hate, for the community. This item will be added to next month's agenda

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 5:24 p.m.



Tara Roberts, Acting Chair

Human Relations Programs Support Subcommittee
March 18, 2025

The Human Rights Commission proposes to co-host a series of free community dinners for University of Idaho students. The aim is to build a stronger sense of welcome and belonging for all our university neighbors, particularly those who may develop pressing needs due to the closure of identity-specific programming on campus, with consequent loss of services.

Core to the HRC mission, as articulated City Code Sec. 12-1, is that we work to "eliminate discrimination" and "improve human relations." And there is perhaps no better way to build understanding and respectful relationships than to invite people with varied life experiences to share a nourishing meal and conversation. At the same time, as prices rise, a common theme across Moscow's student community is food security which everyone has a right to, as affirmed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (Article 25). At the table, members of the HRC will listen and learn directly from students about concerns that the commission may be able to address.

The first dinner is tentatively planned for late April or early May and the second for September, both in the Great Room of the 1912 Center. We will extend invitations to students and groups across campus. Potential partners/co-hosts for these events include the International Programs Office and student groups such as the Native American Student Association, and ??

[Mention other groups, including non-identity-specific, to demonstrate broad outreach. Ideas?] [And how much do we need to request?]