

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION



Erin Agidius
Chair
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Regular Meeting
~Minutes~

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

**Tuesday,
April 15, 2025**

4:00 PM

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

The meeting was called to order at 4:12 p.m.

PRESENT: Erin Agidius, Elizabeth Stevens, Tara Roberts, Jana Argersinger (Zoom), Jonathan Hukill, Nicholas Smiley-Kallas

ABSENT: Vanessa Stevens, Rula Awwad-Rafferty, Emily Mowrer, John Freeland,

STAFF: Anthony Dahlinger (staff liaison), Karen Potter (deputy clerk), Julia Parker (council liaison)

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 March 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.

The following changes were made to the minutes:

Reports, Item 1, Latah County Human Rights Task Force Report, revise Sentence 3 to read: "Because this event is not a good fit for the commission's mission, the task force has withdrawn its request for HRC sponsorship."

Reports, Item 12, Report on Hate Incidents / Moscow as an Inclusive Community, revise Sentence 1 to read: "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 remarks and other derogatory statements at staff and customers."

Roberts moved to accept the minutes as changed, and Stevens seconded the motion. Vote: Ayes: Five. Nays: None. Abstentions: One. 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.

HRC at the Market, on May 24, from 8 a.m. to noon, will be added to the calendar.

4. Hosting Dinner for UI Students (ACTION ITEM)

The Human Relations Programs Support Subcommittee proposed hosting a dinner in April or May for UI students affected by the closure of DEI Offices on campus.

PROPOSED ACTIONS: Vote to approve \$1,000 for the above sponsorship; or take such other action deemed appropriate.

This agenda item will be modified and added to the May agenda.

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.

Dr. Greg Soderberg, of Moscow, mentioned that his church offers a free weekly dinner for international students, accompanied by games.

REPORTS

1. Latah County Human Rights Task Force Report

“Fly for Freedom,” a Living Voices Presentation, will take place on Wednesday, April 23, at the 1912 Center at 6:30 p.m. The presentation highlights the contributions of black women to the World War II effort. The task force will collaborate with the Latah Historical Society on this event. The speaker for the United for Community event on May 17 is Scott Nakagawa, who is from Portland, Oregon, and serves as the Program Director at Social Justice Fund Northwest. This event will feature five discussion groups, each hosted by a different organization. The task force will provide a Community Engagement Resource Directory at the market and list the commission as a resource.

2. Subcommittee Report - Inclusive Communities Month

Roberts emailed the subcommittee’s report to the commissioners before the meeting, summarizing the discussions from its March 27 meeting. The report included a timeline, potential themes, events, partners, and the subcommittee’s recommendations. The theme will be discussed via email and at the April meeting.

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

No report.

4. Supporting Immigrants, Undocumented People, and Related Groups in the Community

Geoffrey Heeren, from the UI Law School, is actively working on this effort and wishes to collaborate with the commission. This collaboration may involve assisting with a previously planned event, coordinating a separate initiative, serving as a co-sponsor, or providing publicity. His presentations are brief, one-hour events. If the commission would like to collaborate with Heeren, their request can be forwarded to Dahlinger, who will then submit it to the city administration for approval. The commission may vote on an item before city approval if time constraints are a concern. Although the task force can be more flexible and responsive, the approval layers within the city may affect the timeliness of events and make adaptability more difficult.

5. Subcommittee Report – Human Relations Programs Support – Awwad-Rafferty, Argersinger, E. Stevens, and V. Stevens

Meyer has resigned from the commission, and gratitude was expressed for his work on this subcommittee. Regular Agenda Item 4 above will be modified and added to the April agenda for a vote. The subcommittee acknowledged that there is insufficient time for a dinner in April for UI students. Awwad-Rafferty suggested something less formal before the end of the semester, such as care baskets or a message from the commissioners to student groups to inform them that the commission is present. It was suggested that the student groups' contact list be tailored to those focused on human or civil rights.

6. De-escalation Education

There was clarification and discussion regarding the types of de-escalation education needed. Education will focus on de-escalation techniques for individuals who may encounter a confrontation. It was suggested that the commission partner with the Chamber of Commerce or local businesses to offer this training and education in late summer. Agidius will research possibilities and report to the commission at the May meeting.

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

No report.

8. Human Trafficking Exhibit – Awwad-Rafferty

No report.

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

V. Stevens could not attend the meeting and emailed the commissioners with information regarding the Nez Perce Tribe Office of Legal Counsel, who will be visiting Moscow High School on May 8th. Unfortunately, there is not enough time between meetings to navigate the sponsorship processes for this event. V. Stevens suggested inviting the Office of Legal Counsel to join the

commission for lunch to discuss ideas for strengthening relationships between the City of Moscow and the Nez Perce Tribe. A question was raised regarding whether this meeting would be for the commission specifically or to make recommendations to the city council. Parker advised that all communication should occur between government agencies or the mayor and the chief, rather than directly from the commission to the Nez Perce Tribe. Agidius will forward V. Stevens's email to Parker for distribution to the council.

10. Juneteenth

Pullman is taking the lead on this event. Argersinger would like to be involved.

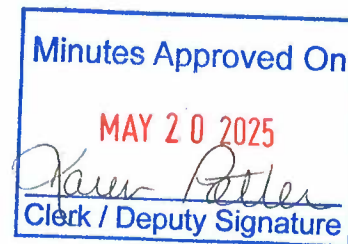
11. Report on Hate Incidents / Moscow as an Inclusive Community

No hate incidents have been reported.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 5:08 p.m.



Erin Agidius, Chair