

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION



Erin Agidius
Chair
hrc@ci.moscow.id.us

Regular Meeting
~Minutes~

Anthony Dahlinger
Staff Liaison
208-883-7064

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

**Tuesday,
February 18, 2025**

4:00 PM

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

The meeting was called to order at 4:02 p.m.

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

New member John Freeland was welcomed to the commission, and introductions were made.

REGULAR AGENDA

1. Mission of the Human Rights Commission

The mission statement was read at the beginning of the meeting to remind attendees of the commission's mission. This will also occur at future monthly meeting.

2. Approval of Human Rights Commission Minutes for January 21, 2025 (ACTION ITEM)

Minutes presented for approval.

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

Roberts moved to accept the minutes, and Mowrer seconded the motion. Vote: Ayes: Nine. 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.

The following events were mentioned and/or will be added to the calendar:

- Skills for Disagreeing Better, Kathy Dawes, February 22, 1912 Game Room, 1-2:30 p.m.

- The Palouse Queer Student Summit: Coalitions Across Borders, February 22, Elson Floyd Cultural Center, 1-5 p.m.
- United for Community, Thursday, April 3, 1912 Center Great Room, 6-9:00 p.m.

4. 2026 Human Rights Commission Budget Request (ACTION ITEM)

The proposed FY 25-26 Budget for the Human Rights Commission is \$6,000.

PROPOSED ACTIONS: Vote to approve the FY 25-26 budget for \$6,000; or take such other action deemed appropriate.

The amount requested is the same as last year, with minor updates to the budget request letter.

Stevens moved to approve the budget request letter for \$6,000, and Roberts seconded the motion.

There was discussion. The commission is working to ensure that funding requests align with their mission. Funding has not changed for over a decade, and there may be an opportunity to increase this amount in the future. Currently, there appears to be no risk of losing federal funding as human rights and civil rights would first be changed at the court level. It was mentioned that the word “diversity” might be taken out of context by readers and could be minimized while staying within the foundational definition of the word.

The following changes to the letter were recommended:

Under Social Justice Forums, sentence two, add “*Human Rights 101*.”

Change the title of the item “Community Unity and Diversity” to “Community Unity and *Human Relations*.”

Under Community Unity and Human Relations, change sentence one to “The HRC and the City of Moscow have played key roles in fostering community unity and *human relations* through events like...”.

Stevens moved to approve the amendment to the motion reflecting the above additions, and Mowrer seconded it. Vote: Ayes: Eight. Nays: None. Abstentions: One. Motion carried.

The original motion by Stevens and seconded by Roberts to approve the minutes passed. Vote: Ayes: Eight. Nays: None. Abstentions: One. Motion carried.

4. Collaboration on the Great Moscow Food Drive (ACTION ITEM)

PROPOSED ACTIONS: Vote to approve collaboration with the Latah County Human Rights Task Force’s Great American Food Drive; or provide staff further direction.

In the past, commissioners have assisted with the food drive by staffing booths, driving trucks, etc. This request does not involve funding; only volunteers to help with the event. All donations will go directly to local food banks.

Awwad-Rafferty moved to collaborate with the Latah County Human Rights Task Force on the Great Moscow Food Drive, and Mowrer seconded the motion. Vote: Ayes: Nine. Nays: None. Abstentions: None. Motion carried.

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.

None.

It was noted that the commission will inform the public about opportunities for public comments at commission meetings via social media, etc.

REPORTS

1. Film Sponsorships – Roberts

Guest: Colin Mannex, Kenworthy Theatre Executive Director

Mannex provided copies of future sponsorship opportunities for the Kenworthy Theatre. One of the events, “The Third Annual Silent Film Festival,” features over 100 Nez Perce actors. A Native American composer will provide the music. There will also be a panel discussion. The Indigenous Film Festival will be held in November and will be in partnership with UI Tribal Relations and the Nez Perce Cultural Director Nakia Williamson-Cloud. If the commission is interested, Mannex will introduce the commission to his tribe contact.

2. Latah Human Rights Task Force Report – Joann Muneta

There was maximum attendance at the MLK Breakfast. The task force is looking for a bigger space. The Art and Essay contest winners' work is displayed at the Chamber. The United for Community event is about expanding our community's inclusiveness and is still in the development stages. Stevens will be helping with the planning, and once plans are finalized, the commission will decide how to be involved in this event. The task force, the United Church of Moscow, the Interfaith Council, and the Jewish Community of the Palouse will be involved. Stevens will fill out and submit a sponsorship request for the event, and a vote will be taken in March.

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

Information about cleaning sidewalks has been included on the City's social media page, newsletter, and the police department's social media page. Information for the city's billing inserts must be sent two months in advance to Corey Oglesby. Oglesby will be contacted next fall with information for an insert about snow shoveling on sidewalks. Roberts will follow up with him about including the “Moses: 13 Steps” poster on the city website and social media pages. Roberts requested that publicity for Juneteenth be submitted to the subcommittee by the end of April.

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

The subcommittee met and would like to host a campus meal for students. With the loss of funding, there will be more food insecurity. The focus of this event will be to have food and conversations with international students (and all students) and make them aware of the commission's work. Other event details may include:

- Providing ethnic food by partnering with local restaurants: Casa, Patty's, and Mela Bangladeshi Cuisine.
- Partnering with student groups such as international student organizations.
- Possible venues: The Center (upper floor), St. Augustine's, or the International Programs Office.
- Naming the event, "Come to the Table"
- The subcommittee will move forward with planning a meal for possibly this spring and a second meal during Inclusive Communities Month.

5. Human Trafficking Exhibit – Awwad-Rafferty

This item is tabled until the March meeting.

6. Accessibility, Advocacy, and Education

Awwad-Rafferty suggested an experiential learning activity to help others understand inaccessibility, its meaning, and who it affects. This will be added to the March agenda as a possible social justice forum.

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

This item is tabled until the March meeting.

8. Juneteenth

An upcoming meeting will be held with WSU and Pullman. Since Moscow hosted the event last year, Pullman will host it this year. Argersinger would like to help with the planning.

9. Inclusive Communities Month

This item will move up on the March agenda.

10. Human Rights Commission Day at the Market Dates

Stevens sent out a doddle poll to survey commissioners about their available market tabling dates. The poll will be sent out again, and Stevens will forward the results to the deputy clerk on Wednesday.

**11. Supporting Immigrants/Undocumented People in the Community (Discussion) –
Argersinger**

There are community concerns about what is being done to help those in immigrant/undocumented communities. Several suggestions were discussed to educate and deescalate fear:

- Distribute “Know Your Rights” cards and/or flyers
- Check into national and online resources
- Refer individuals to Smiley-Kallas, who can connect with resources
- Contact the UI Law School

Also mentioned was the issue of those in the U.S. legally but perceived as undocumented. It was suggested that if an undocumented individual is asked to be interviewed about their legal status, another citizen should accompany them to the interview. Dahlinger will speak regarding the City’s response to this issue at the March meeting. The commission will contact the law school for collaboration and to provide education.

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

None reported.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.



Erin Agidius, Chair



February 13, 2025

To: Mayor Art Bettge
Moscow City Council

From: Moscow Human Rights Commission

Re: Request for Funding to Support Moscow Human Rights Commission Activities

Dear Mayor Bettge and Moscow City Council Members:

The Moscow Human Rights Commission (HRC) is seeking funding of \$6,000 (six thousand dollars) for the upcoming year to further our mission in the community. The HRC has been an active and consistent presence in Moscow, and we recognize the competing budgetary priorities you face. Nevertheless, the work of the Commission is crucial to our community, and we believe that the requested funds will enable us to continue and expand our vital initiatives.

The breakdown of our funding request is strategically designed to maximize our reach and effectiveness and is as follows:

Human Rights Education - \$2,500

This allocation supports the HRC in organizing educational events and workshops throughout the year. The flexibility to respond to emerging needs is essential, and these funds will contribute to events like Inclusive Communities Month, where we explore themes such as Mental Health, Disabilities in the Workplace, and Restorative Justice Practices. We aim to collaborate with diverse groups, bringing in speakers and conducting human rights workshops. Additionally, we plan to enhance public education through innovative approaches, including newspaper inserts and events in public schools. Our new publicity plan has shown success, and we continue to refine it for optimal impact. Through the sponsorship of films such as "Rumble: Indians who Rocked the World" and the upcoming film "Moses: 13 Steps" your support for the Human Rights Commission allows us to bring civil rights legacies to our vibrant community.

Social Justice Forums - \$1,500

Social Justice Forums are integral to the HRC's activities, providing a platform for experts and community members to address pressing issues. Recent forums include Human Rights 101, and "United Against Hate" hosted by the Department of Justice Attorney General's Office that drew an engaged and robust audience.

M.L.K. Breakfast - \$750

The MLK Breakfast is a significant event promoting civil and human rights, drawing substantial attendance and continued growth. The HRC has supported this event in the past and seeks to continue its valuable contribution as the event is sold out each year and continues to honor local community members who promote civil and human rights.

Community Unity and Human Relations - \$1,250

The HRC and the City of Moscow have played key roles in fostering community unity and human relations through events like the Palouse Pride Festival, tabling at the Farmer's Market, the Great Moscow Food Drive, Juneteenth, the Oppenheimer Ethics Symposium, and the Latah Recovery Festival. We plan to continue supporting events such as the Sheikh Award and promoting the bias reporting system for Moscow.

If the City of Moscow approves this request, the HRC will maintain and expand its crucial activities in the community. Our organization has been a cornerstone in providing essential services to the city, and we are committed to continuing these endeavors.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Erin Agidius', with a stylized, flowing script.

Erin Agidius, J.D.
Chair, Moscow Human Rights Commission

KPAC Special Programs and Events 2025

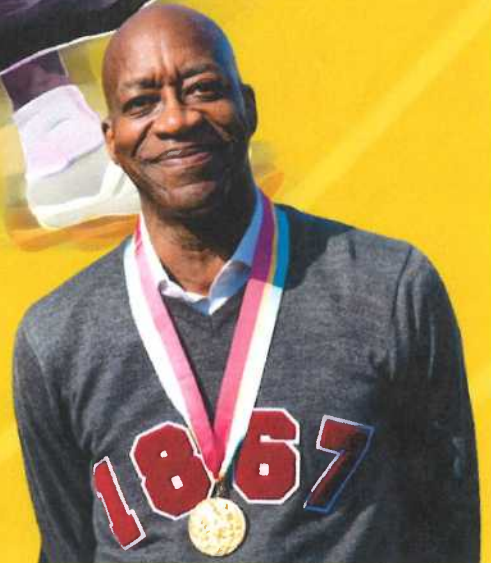
- **Science on Screen** monthly screenings that highlight STEM topics in popular culture with introductions from leading researchers. \$300-500 per screening. Sponsorships available for March 25, "Children of Men" and fertility with WSU professor Jon Oatley, April 16 "Tremors" and UI Ag soil scientists, and "12 Angry Men" on May 6. Following season begins Nov, 2025.
- **Black History Month** - Special film and in-person Q&A with Olympic Champion Edwin Moses, Feb. 23. \$500-1000 sponsorships available.
- **Madeline Hawthorne - March 5** - Popular Montana country rock in mainstage performance. \$500 sponsorship opportunity.
- **Idaho Gives - April 28 - May 1** - Free movies and a live music showcase to draw support for the KPAC marquee project.
- **Eilen Jewell** - Idaho's premiere singer-songwriter in concert **May 2** with a 4 piece band. Charlie Sutton and the Changelings to open. Seeking two \$500-1000 sponsors.
- **Summer Family Matinees** - Free kids movies, Tuesdays through Thursdays at 1 PM, mid-June through mid-August. Sponsors select a film title and help cover licensing/operations costs to offer this gift to the community. \$500 sponsorship per day.
- **Saturday Cartoons at the Farmers Market** - Presenting sponsor for free cartoons during the Farmer's Market season. Best marketing value with marquee recognition on Main St. and 7,000+ downtown visitors each weekend: \$4,000.
- **Backstage Banquet Dinner** - Annual KPAC fundraiser. Seeking sponsorships from local businesses to raise funds for KPAC marquee restoration project. **Friday, Sept. 19.**
- **Oregon Shakespeare Festival** - Touring OSF actors showcase live theater for Moscow students in grades 6-8 and 9-12. \$2000 sponsorship available.
- **Third Annual Silent Film Festival** with live music that we commission from leading regional composers. This year will celebrate early Idaho filmmakers with a restoration of "Told in the Hills" (1919) featuring 100 Nez Perce actors and Nell Shipman shorts. Festival runs **Sept 25-28**. \$500-5000 sponsorship opportunities available.
- **Indigenous Film Festival** - November TBD. Local, regional, and nationally distributed films for three days, running in partnership with UI Tribal Relations and Nez Perce Cultural Director Nakia Williamson-Cloud.

OLYMPIC CHAMPION EDWIN MOSES

Screening of Documentary "Moses: 13 Steps"
In-Person Introduction by Dr. Edwin Moses
Followed by Guided Q&A

**FREE FOR
STUDENTS**

Kenworthy Theatre
Sunday February 23
4 PM



**HUMAN RIGHTS
COMMISSION**



**Tim
Gresback**

**Cody & Laura
Moore**

**Kimberly
Kenworthy
Manaut**