

# HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION



Erin Agidius  
Chair  
[hrc@ci.moscow.id.us](mailto: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,  
May 20, 2025**

**4:00 PM**

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

**The meeting was called to order at 4:04 p.m.**

**PRESENT:** Elizabeth Stevens, Vanessa Stevens, Jonathan Hukill, Rula Awwad-Rafferty, Emily Mowrer, John Freeland, Jim Huggins  
**ABSENT:** Erin Agidius, Tara Roberts, Jana Argersinger, Nicholas Smiley-Kallas,  
**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 April 15, 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 V. Stevens seconded the motion. Vote: Ayes: Seven. 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 Pullman Pride Event, Saturday, June 21, was added to the calendar.

### 4. Juneteenth Sponsorship (ACTION ITEM)

The City of Pullman will host the Juneteenth event this year. If approved, this item will be forwarded to city administration for final approval.

There was discussion. Pullman will host Juneteenth in Friendship Square in Moscow on Thursday, June 19, 2025, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The commission would like to co-sponsor this event by providing items such as food, transportation from Pullman, and honoraria for speakers. A completed sponsorship form outlining the sponsored activities will be sent to Dahlinger for forwarding to city administration for approval. The Unitarian Universalist Church has a sound system that the commission may use.

**PROPOSED ACTIONS:** Vote to approve \$750.00 for the above sponsorship; or take such other action deemed appropriate.

Awwad-Rafferty moved to co-sponsor Juneteenth for \$750.00 and V. Stevens seconded the motion. Vote: Ayes: Seven. 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.

## **REPORTS**

### **1. Bias Report System – City Attorney Mia Bautista**

City Attorney Bautista was unable to attend the meeting and will be added to the June agenda.

### **2. Latah County Human Rights Task Force Report**

“United in Community” was held on Saturday, May 17, and was a tremendous success. The event reached full capacity with 100 attendees. The guest speaker was Scot Nakagawa, an author specializing in the study of religious extremism. Four discussion groups generated ideas and identified possible allies. Attendees were also encouraged to write about something they felt inspired to do. This event marks the beginning of increased collaboration among groups. A Community Resource booklet, listing over 30 organizations, was distributed at the event and is also available on the websites for the Unitarian Universalist Church and the task force. The event was sponsored by the Unitarian Universalist Church, the United Church of Moscow, and the Latah County Human Rights Task Force. The task force will also sponsor the children’s activities table at the Juneteenth event.

### **3. Subcommittee Report - Inclusive Communities Month**

The subcommittee convened in March. Mowrer is unable to continue as co-chair of this subcommittee but will remain available to assist. The subcommittee is interested in engaging various levels of community members and groups. Discussions took place regarding different activities and themes. The following assignments were made:

- Movie research and selection – E. Stevens
- Working with the Disability Action Center on their challenge course to foster understanding of different environments. This activity may lead to another related event, such as a panel – Awwad-Rafferty
- Meal/food – a community meal with potential partners, such as Gritman Medical Center and Latah Recovery Center - Argersinger
- Panel – V. Stevens
- Marketing (to tie it all together)– Mowrer

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

This item was discussed as part of Inclusive Communities Month, Item 3.

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

No report. Argersinger was unable to attend the meeting.

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

The commission is exploring additional ways to support students since there wasn't enough time to reach out before the end of the semester. The College of Agriculture (Awwad-Rafferty's department) is willing to contribute to an event. V. Stevens shared at the last meeting that the College of Education's Health and Human Sciences Committee on Climate and Belonging is also willing to contribute. The students who are here during the summer have needs, and their ability to work is limited. It was suggested that the commission purchase name tags and attend upcoming events, such as Palousafest, to get to know the students.

**7. De-escalation Education**

No report.

**8. Subcommittee Report – Marketing and Messaging – Roberts / Mowrer**

Mowrer has items available for tabling at her house when needed. The task force may be able to provide copies of the Community Resource booklet for the commission's table at the Farmer's Market. Additionally, the table will have a clipboard for new contacts.

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

No report.

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

UI has a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Nez Perce Tribe, and the Unitarian Universalist Church is currently collaborating with the Tribal Council to establish an MOU. There

was a discussion on how to approach the Nez Perce Tribe to broaden and strengthen the city's relationship with them. Suggestions included:

- Raise awareness of the tribe and its history through education,
- Add historical markers to buildings
- Collaboration with the Historical Preservation Commission
- Host an event for the 2025 Indigenous Peoples' Day and prepare a display for the 2026 Indigenous Peoples' Day.
- Feature a documentary
- Plan a workshop with the City Council and the Nez Perce Tribal Legal Counsel to clarify sovereignty.

Bill Belknap will be invited to the June meeting to clarify the commission's role in contacting the Nez Perce Tribe, what they are empowered to do, and to address any questions.

#### **11. Juneteenth**

This item was discussed in Regular Agenda Item #4.

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

Dahlinger shared one incident that had been reported:

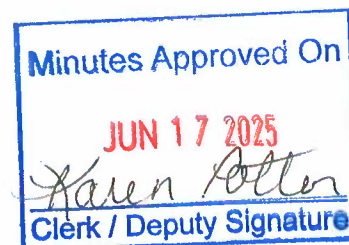
A faculty member reported that someone placed a religious symbol over a sign outside their office. No crime was committed.

*Jim Huggins was welcomed as a new member of the commission, and introductions were made.*

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### **ADJOURN**

The meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.



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Elizabeth Stevens, Co-Chair