

FAIR & AFFORDABLE HOUSING COMMISSION



Eija Sumner
Commission Chair
FAHC@ci.moscow.id.us

Regular Meeting
~Agenda~

Lucy Falcy
Staff Liaison
208.883.7095

<http://www.ci.moscow.id.us/358/Fair-Affordable-Housing-Commission>

Thursday
September 4, 2025

5:15 PM

Haddock Building
504 S Washington Street

WELCOME AND ATTENDANCE

REGULAR AGENDA

1. **Approval of Minutes from August 7, 2025 (ACTION ITEM)**

Presentation of minutes for approval.

PROPOSED ACTIONS: Approve minutes as presented; approve minutes with amendments; or provide staff with further direction if necessary.

2. **Public Comment**

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.

3. **Moscow Community Housing Authority Recommendation (ACTION ITEM)**

The Commission will review a letter drafted by Staff outlining the recommendation to City Council to create a housing authority in Moscow.

PROPOSED ACTIONS: Direct Staff to finalize recommendation letter to submit to the Council; or provide staff with further direction as necessary.

REPORTS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

UPCOMING EVENTS / MEETINGS

The next Fair & Affordable Housing Commission meeting is scheduled for October 2, 2025.

ADJOURN

NOTICE: It is the policy of the City of Moscow that all City-sponsored public meetings and events are accessible to all people. If you need assistance in participating in this meeting or event due to a disability under the ADA, please contact the City's ADA Coordinator by phone at (208) 883-7600, TDD (208) 883-7019, or by email at adaordinator@ci.moscow.id.us at least 48 hours prior to the scheduled meeting or event to request an accommodation. The City of Moscow is committed to ensuring that all reasonable accommodation requests are fulfilled.

FAIR & AFFORDABLE HOUSING COMMISSION



Eija Sumner
Commission Chair
FAHC@ci.moscow.id.us

Regular Meeting
~Minutes~

Michael Ray
Staff Liaison
208.883.7008

<https://www.ci.moscow.id.us/358/Fair-Affordable-Housing-Commission>

Thursday
August 7, 2025

5:15 PM

Haddock Building
504 S. Washington Street

Baukol called the meeting to order at 5:15 PM

MEMBERS PRESENT: Randy Baukol, Vice Chair; Jo Ellen Force, Leah Halterman, Sage McCetich, Eija Sumner, Nathan Tupper, Jennifer Wallace

MEMBERS ABSENT: Juan Albaitero, Ellen Peterson

OTHERS: Julia Parker

STAFF: Lucy Falcy, Michael Ray

REGULAR AGENDA

1. Approval of Minutes from June 5, 2025 (ACTION ITEM)

Presentation of minutes for approval.

Force moved for approval of the minutes as presented, seconded by Wallace. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Baukol, Force, Halterman, McCetich, Tupper (5). Nays: None. Abstentions: Sumner, Wallace (2). Motion carried.

Wallace arrived at 5:19 PM

2. Public Comment

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.

Kristi Accola, Moscow, spoke on their experience with reachability and accessibility in homes in Moscow. They requested that these topics be more widely considered during renovation and new construction projects (see attached).

Sumner arrived at 5:21 PM

3. Moscow Community Housing Authority Discussion (ACTION ITEM)

The Commission will discuss the creation of a housing authority in Moscow and whether to forward a recommendation on to the City Council.

Nils Peterson, Executive Direction for Hills & Rivers Housing Trust, talked about a proposed Moscow Housing Authority and provided a presentation of revised information (see attached). The Commission agreed that they would like to see this idea move forward.

McCetich moved to recommend that City Council pursue the formation of a Moscow Housing Authority, seconded by Baukol. Roll Call Vote; Ayes: Unanimous (7). Nays: None. Abstentions: None. Motion carried.

REPORTS

- Force reported that the Intermountain Fair Housing Council has begun fundraising and shared a letter requesting donations (see attached).
- Parker mentioned that there may be a new affordable housing development that will potentially be built on Warbonnet Drive.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

UPCOMING EVENTS / MEETINGS

The next Fair & Affordable Housing Commission meeting is scheduled for September 4, 2025.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:27 PM

Eija Sumner, Chair

Date

DRAFT

September XX, 2025

City Council
City of Moscow
PO Box 2903
Moscow, Idaho 83843

Re: Establishment of a Moscow Housing Authority

Dear Mayor and Members of the Moscow City Council:

The City of Moscow Fair and Affordable Housing Commission (FAHC) is charged with advising the City on matters pertaining to Fair Housing practices and housing affordability within the community. Last June the Commission presented the Council with a letter supporting the City of Moscow's involvement in a regional housing authority, together with efforts within Latah County. While regional housing authority efforts have dwindled, housing needs have not. As a Commission, we remain in strong support of actions that can help facilitate successful affordable housing projects.

Over the last six months, an outside group of community members advocating for the creation of a housing authority in Moscow has been attending and providing information at FAHC meetings. After several long meetings and much discussion on the topic, at the meeting on August 7, 2025, the Commission voted to draft this recommendation letter in support of the creation and promotion of a Moscow Housing Authority (MHA). As a quasi-governmental agency, a housing authority is a flexible tool with capabilities beyond those of local affordable housing nonprofits. A housing authority would be board-run and could support affordable housing in Moscow by:

- Applying for, accepting, and utilizing or redistributing federal and state grants currently unavailable to affordable housing nonprofits;
- Acquiring public land for affordable housing projects; and
- Borrowing and lending funds at lower interest rates than are available to private agencies.

We understand that financing such an endeavor is a concern and hope that after the initial start-up effort, the MHA would be self-sustaining via grants and development income. We do not wish for the MHA to become a burden to the City or its staff. We would like the City to explore how it can use the tool of a housing authority without imposing additional fees or taxes on the community.

Much like the creation of the Moscow Affordable Housing Trust (now the Hills and Rivers Housing Trust) in 2009, it is anticipated that it will take several years to get a housing authority off the ground. However, there are many passionate people in the community who wish to see affordable housing addressed, and the longevity and success of the Hills and Rivers Housing Trust has demonstrated both the support of the community as well as the ability of a local housing organization to build from the ground up to become self-sustaining. Addressing housing affordability requires a comprehensive approach that should include utilizing a housing authority.

This Commission would like to urge the Mayor and members of City Council to pursue this endeavor. We are committed to providing any input or assistance as may be deemed helpful.

Thank you for considering this important matter and please do not hesitate to contact me if the Commission can be of any assistance in this effort.

Sincerely,

Eija Sumner, Chair
Moscow Fair and Affordable Housing Commission