

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,
August 19, 2025**

4:00 PM

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

The meeting was called to order at 4:01 p.m.

PRESENT: Erin Agidius, Emily Mowrer, John Freeland, Jim Huggins, Tara Roberts (Teams), Jana Argersinger, Nicholas Smiley-Kallas, Rula Awwad-Rafferty
ABSENT: Elizabeth Stevens, Jonathan Hukill, Vanessa Stevens
STAFF: Anthony Dahlinger (staff liaison), Karen Potter (deputy clerk), Julia Parker (City 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 June 17, 2025 (ACTION ITEM)

Minutes presented for approval.

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

Smiley-Kallas moved to accept the minutes, and Freeman seconded the motion. Vote: Ayes: Eight. 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.

Human Rights Task Force Day at the Market has been moved to October 4 to avoid conflict with the Palouse Pride event.

4. Sticker Purchase (ACTION ITEM)

PROPOSED ACTIONS: Vote to approve \$300.00 for the purchase of stickers or take such other action deemed appropriate.

The stickers are easy to order and will be made using the same design as the buttons. It was noted that the supply of event buttons has run out and needs to be reordered. After discussion, it was decided that purchasing more buttons will be added to the September agenda.

Freeman moved to approve the sticker purchase for \$300, and Smiley-Kallas seconded the motion. Vote: Ayes: Eight. Nays: None. Abstentions: None. Motion carried.

5. Sponsorship and Table for Inland Oasis Palouse Pride in the Park (ACTION ITEM)

PROPOSED ACTIONS: Vote to approve up to \$500.00 for a table and sponsorship for Inland Oasis Palouse Pride; or take other action deemed appropriate.

The commission has been “soft” registered for a bronze sponsorship and a table at Palouse Pride in the Park for \$231.00. The deadline for using the commission’s logo on t-shirts, etc., at the event has passed.

Freeman moved to sponsor the event, and Argersinger seconded the motion. Vote: Ayes: Eight. Nays: None. Abstentions: None. Motion carried.

6. Sponsorship of Community Dinners (ACTION ITEM)

The Latah County Human Rights Task Force has committed to co-sponsoring this event for \$300.00. This request will be reviewed by the Adm. Committee on August 25, 2025.

PROPOSED ACTIONS: Vote to approve \$1,200 for sponsorship of the September Inclusive Community Month dinner; or take other action deemed appropriate.

Mowrer moved to sponsor the September Inclusive Community Month dinner for \$1200, and Freeman seconded the motion. Vote: Ayes: Eight. Nays: None. Abstentions: None. Motion carried.

7. Sponsorship of the Silent Film, “Told in the Hills (1919)” (ACTION ITEM)

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

There was a discussion about the current budget and upcoming expenses, as well as reducing the sponsorship amount. This request will be reviewed by the Administrative Committee on August 25, 2025.

Awwad-Rafferty moved to co-sponsor this film for \$750.00, and Freeman seconded the motion. Vote: Ayes: Eight. Nays: None. Abstentions: None. Motion carried.

8. Sponsorship of Film, “Won’t You be My Neighbor” (ACTION ITEM)

PROPOSED ACTIONS: Vote to approve \$800.00 for sponsorship of the film; or take other action deemed appropriate.

There was a discussion about the current budget, upcoming expenses, and other Inclusive Communities Month activities. It was suggested that the event be postponed until later in the fall to allow for proper promotion and marketing, and it will be fully sponsored by the commission. Awwad-Rafferty will coordinate the resource fair, possibly at the Kenworthy Theatre. This request will be reviewed by the Administrative Committee on August 25, 2025. Roberts will contact the Kenworthy, and once approved by the city council on September 2, an invoice will be issued.

Freeman moved to sponsor the film for \$800, and Argersinger seconded the motion. Vote: Ayes: Eight. Nays: None. Abstentions: None. Motion carried.

9. 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 attended.

REPORTS

1. City Supervisor Bill Belknap

Belknap addressed the following topics:

- **FY 25-26 Budget.** Belknap distributed the city's commission budgets for FY 25-26 to attendees. The city has faced significant financial challenges over the last two years due to changes in streetlight fees and utility transfers, which have left the city with only a 0.7% cushion. All city commissions' budgets have been reduced for the new fiscal year, including the Human Rights Commission (from \$6,000 last year to \$3,250).
- **Commission communication with the Nez Perce Tribe.** The city is currently working with the tribe on two sensitive water issues, and he asked the commission to ensure that all outreach with the tribe, as a sovereign nation, goes through the council and the mayor. It was also noted that the city council and the mayor previously declined the suggestion to begin adding a land acknowledgment before city meetings.

2. Anthony Dahlinger – FY 25-26 Budget and Subcommittees

Dahlinger informed attendees about Idaho Open Meeting Laws for subcommittees and a revision to current commission practices. All subcommittee meetings must be held in a public forum, and public notice must be given at least five days before the meeting, along with an agenda notice 48 hours prior to the meeting. Brief minutes may be recorded by the subcommittee member and submitted to the deputy clerk to be included in the official minutes. Dahlinger provided clarification about emails between subcommittee members. If commission agenda items are discussed via email, it can be considered deliberation that must occur in a public forum. Parker will send information about other city commission subcommittee processes, and Potter will outline a meeting procedure and send it to all members. Going forward, the subcommittee procedure will

follow as outlined above. There was also discussion about potential locations for subcommittee meetings, such as a coffee shop. Dahlinger also addressed future Zoom and Teams meetings for members who are absent. He mentioned Mayor Bettge would like all commission members to attend meetings in person. If there is an extenuating circumstance, members can email Dahlinger for approval to join remotely.

3. Latah County Human Rights Task Force Report

The food drive was very successful. Unfortunately, members of the Human Rights Commission were unable to attend. The publicity through the city was helpful. The task force is working on prompts for the Art and Essay Contest and the MLK Breakfast. The theme of the breakfast is “Values and the Importance of Education.” Living Voices will be in the area on November 12th, performing “Native Vision,” which explores the history of Native American boarding schools and the role of Navajo Code Talkers. The task force is happy to sponsor the Community Dinner with the commission. It was suggested that Lysa Salsbury be contacted for a list of student groups to inform them about the dinner. She has a new position in Student Services.

4. Juneteenth Recap

This item was tabled until next month’s meeting.

5. Subcommittee Report – Inclusive Communities Month – Roberts, Freeland, Mowrer, and Awwad-Rafferty

Argersinger reviewed the current arrangements in place and sought direction for the dinner. The dinner is scheduled for September 29 at the 1912 Center. Happy Hog will be the caterer and will offer vegetarian options. She asked the commission to email her with ideas for a name. Food will be provided for 70 attendees. Lysa Salsbury has contacts and will be approached to gather the names of specific student groups that might be invited. Smiley-Kallas will share information about distributing food to groups like the Recovery Center. Argersinger requested assistance on the event day with transporting desserts and beverages.

It was noted that the three events scheduled for Inclusive Communities Month are: 1) Community Dinner, 2) Told in the Hills film, and 3) Supporting Diverse Learners Panel

6. Supporting Immigrants, Undocumented People, and Related Groups in the Community – Agidius

This item was postponed until next month’s meeting.

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

V. Stevens was unable to attend the meeting but relayed that she would like to pay a \$100 honorarium to each of the four-member panel to address “Supporting Diverse Learners.” This event will be held as part of Inclusive Communities Month in September.

8. De-escalation Education – Agidius

This item was tabled until next month’s meeting.

9. Subcommittee Report – Marketing and Messaging – Roberts

This item was tabled until next month's meeting.

10. Human Trafficking Exhibit – Awwad-Rafferty

This item was tabled until next month's meeting.

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

This item will be removed from future agendas.

12. Application for Welcoming City Status

This item was tabled until next month's meeting.

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

This item was tabled until next month's meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Indigenous Peoples Day is coming up soon. Awwad-Rafferty will check if there are any campus events planned and report back to the commission.

2. Sheikh Award. The biennial Sheikh Award is scheduled for November. Deputy Clerk Potter will send the press release announcing the call for nominations to the city administration for publishing on September 2nd, with nominations due by October 3rd. Due to current budget cuts, the commission will consider creative ways to honor this award at the September meeting.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 5:38 p.m.

Erin Agidius, Chair

