

# 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,  
September 16, 2025**

**4:00 PM**

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

**The meeting was called to order at 4:05 p.m.**

**PRESENT:** Erin Agidius, Elizabeth Stevens, Emily Mowrer, John Freeland, Tara Roberts, Jana Argersinger, Nicholas Smiley-Kallas, Rula Awwad-Rafferty, Vanessa Stevens  
**ABSENT:** Jonathan Hukill, Jim Huggins  
**STAFF:** Anthony Dahlinger (staff liaison), Karen Potter (deputy clerk)

## **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 August 19, 2025 (ACTION ITEM)**

Minutes presented for approval.

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

Mowrer moved to accept the minutes, and Awwad-Rafferty 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.

### **4. Button Purchase (ACTION ITEM)**

The commission is out of buttons for handouts at public relations events.

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

Roberts moved to table this item and add it to the October agenda, and Mowrer seconded the motion. Vote: Ayes: Seven. Nays: One. Abstentions: One. 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.

Cynthia King, Moscow, a retired journalist, is covering City of Moscow commissions and other topics for the Moscow Report.

**REPORTS**

**1. Latah County Human Rights Task Force Report**

The prompts for the Art and Essay Contest have been finalized. The theme of the contest is “Goals and Values of Education.” Human Rights Day at the Market will be held on October 4th, with the theme “Immigration as an American Experience.” Children’s activities will also be available at the event. Work has begun on the MLK Breakfast, which will also focus on immigration and the American experience. The commission has funded the MLK Breakfast in previous years; however, Muneta mentioned that due to current budget constraints, the task force understands if the commission cannot contribute as much as before. The Living Voices performance is scheduled for November 12th for 5th graders and high school students, with an evening show at 1912 on November 11th.

**2. Juneteenth Recap**

Around 200 people attended the Juneteenth event. There was strong collaboration and more participation from Pullman. The food and guest speaker were very good.

**3. Inclusive Communities Month – Roberts, Freeland, Mowrer, and Awwad-Rafferty**

The three sponsorship requests submitted to the Administrative Committee were forwarded to the City Council for review. Agidius, who represented the commission at the City Council meeting, summarized the council’s decisions regarding these events.

- The “Told in the Hills” film was not approved due to the cost for attendees and the council’s concern that the event was not going to be free to the public.
- The “Won’t You Be My Neighbor” film was approved for showing next fiscal year.
- The student dinner was approved, and preparations are underway. Argersinger handed out flyers to the commissioners for distribution. The venue has been changed from the 1912 Center to the LDS Institute of Religion on campus. The council requested that attendance be open to all students, not just specific student groups. One commissioner or task force member will serve as a “host” at each table of seven, with a list of discussion topics. Commissioners were asked to send their topic ideas to Argersinger via email. The task force will provide the dessert, and any leftover food will be donated to the Latah Recovery Center. Since the venue is free, \$250 of the funds will be used to purchase more food, and another \$200 will be set aside for last-minute expenses.

It was also noted that Inclusive Communities Month was initially a statewide event. Since that is no longer the case, the commission will consider changing the date from September to another month.

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

This item was not discussed and will be reconsidered for the October agenda.

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

The “Supporting Diverse Learners” event has been removed from the Inclusive Communities Month lineup and will now be held as a separate social justice forum scheduled for October 21. There was discussion about prioritizing events due to the reduction in the commission’s budget from \$6,000 to \$3,250. This event will feature three panel members, each receiving a \$100 honorarium. It will take place in the City Council Chambers. It was also decided to cancel the showing of “Won’t You Be My Neighbor” in November, since it will no longer be connected to Inclusive Communities Month and will fall under the next fiscal year’s budget.

**6. De-escalation Education – Agidius**

This item was not discussed and will be reconsidered as an agenda item for October.

**7. Marketing and Messaging – Roberts**

Due to time constraints, no report was given.

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

This item was not discussed and will be reconsidered as an agenda item for October.

**9. Application for Welcoming City Status**

This item was not discussed and will be reconsidered as an agenda item for October.

**10. Sheikh Award – City Council Chambers, Thursday, November 6, 7 p.m.**

This event is scheduled to take place in the City Council Chambers on Thursday, November 6, at 7 p.m. One nomination has been received so far; the deadline for submissions is October 3rd at 5 p.m. Potter will email the submissions to the commissioners before the October meeting. Unfortunately, the Sheikh children will be unable to attend the ceremony and have asked for it to be recorded.

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

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Agidius has drafted a letter to the mayor and city council, inviting them to the Inclusive Communities dinner on September 29, and seeking clarification on the commission’s processes and procedures. She will email this letter to commissioners for their review, suggestions, and comments. She will also send a follow-up email to the commissioners so they may re-evaluate future agenda items and revisit commission priorities while considering the FY 25-26 budget.

A concern was raised about city scooters left in the middle of sidewalks, blocking wheelchair users. The city has a contract with Spin to pick up and redistribute the scooters. A complaint can be made directly to the company.

**ADJOURN**

The meeting adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

Minutes Approved On  
OCT 21 2025  
*Jaren Belle*  
Clerk / Deputy Signature

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Erin Agidius, Chair