

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,
October 21, 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, Emily Mowrer, John Freeland, Jana Argersinger, Nicholas Smiley-Kallas, Rula Awwad-Rafferty, Vanessa Stevens, Jonathan Hukill, Jim Huggins

ABSENT: Elizabeth Stevens

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 September 16, 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 Awwad-Rafferty seconded the motion. Vote: Ayes: Seven. Nays: None. Abstentions: None. Motion carried. (Freeland and Hukill were not present for this vote)

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.

There were no changes to the calendar.

4. Button Purchase (ACTION ITEM)

Reorder buttons for distribution at events.

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

There was a discussion on whether to purchase buttons or stickers for events. Stickers were previously approved but not ordered.

Mowrer moved to table this item until the next meeting, and Awwad-Rafferty seconded the motion. Vote: Ayes: Nine. Nays: None. Abstentions: None. Motion carried.

5. MLK Breakfast Sponsorship for \$500.00 (ACTION ITEM)

The MLK Breakfast will be held in January 2026 at the 1912 Center. The commission has historically sponsored this event.

PROPOSED ACTIONS: Vote to approve \$500.00 for the sponsorship of the MLK Breakfast; or take such other action deemed appropriate.

There was a discussion about the sponsorship amount. This year, the task force will charge \$10 per ticket for attendance. The monies are used for the room rental at the 1912 Center.

Awwad-Rafferty moved to sponsor the 2025 MLK Breakfast for \$500.00, and Freeland seconded the motion. Vote: Ayes: Nine. Nays: None. Abstentions: None. Motion carried.

6. Host Social Justice Forum, “Supporting Diverse Learners” for \$350.00 (ACTION ITEM)

PROPOSED ACTIONS: Vote to approve \$350.00 to host “Supporting Diverse Learners” forum; or take such other action deemed appropriate.

An honorarium of \$100 each will be given to each panel member, and refreshments will be served.

Mowrer moved to host the above forum for \$350.00 and Freeland seconded the motion. Vote: Ayes: Nine. Nays: None. Abstentions: None. Motion carried.

7. Vote for Sheikh Community Unity Awardee (ACTION ITEM)

PROPOSED ACTIONS: Vote to recommend the name of one nominee to Mayor Bettge as the recipient of the 2025 Sheikh Community Unity Award; or take such other action deemed appropriate.

Nomination letters were emailed to and reviewed by commission members earlier this month. It was noted that all four nominees are outstanding and have contributed to the community over many years.

Awwad-Rafferty moved to recommend two names to Mayor Bettge for his consideration for the 2025 Sheikh Award, and Stevens seconded the motion. Vote: Ayes: Eight. Nays: One. Abstentions: None. Motion carried

8. 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.

William Janzer, Moscow, Idaho, expressed concerns about the Kenworthy Theatre and the recent showing of the film, “Encampments,” which he believes whitewashes violence against the Jewish community. He has been served a “No Trespassing” order from the Kenworthy, so he cannot communicate with them anymore. He came to the commission because he did not know what to do and asked if there was anything the commission could do to help. The commission can discuss possible steps, including outreach and education, and Agidius might have some helpful resources. Regarding writing a letter to the Kenworthy, the commissioners may write letters individually, but not as a commission.

REPORTS

1. Latah County Human Rights Task Force Report

Human Rights Day at the Market was held on October 4. There were children’s activities, and the task force displayed 12 pictures of local citizens who originally migrated to Moscow. A history of immigration in the United States and Latah County was shared, and all attendee comments were positive. The task force is working with the commission on the Better Together Dinner. Seven table hosts from the task force and seven from the HRC participated. Muneta wants the comments collected at the event to be followed up on. Work is ongoing for the MLK Breakfast.

2. Inclusive Communities Month Dinner Report - Argersinger

Argersinger reports that the collaboration was successful, with 60 people attending, including commissioners and members of the LCHRTF. The ASUI president and the UI Director of Communications also attended and helped promote the event at UI. Students from various parts of the campus shared insightful comments, including concerns about incidents that have made some students feel unsafe, and there are some feelings between the county, city, and students. They expressed that the closure of on-campus centers has affected them. More efforts are needed to engage with them. Several students from the dinner showed interest in the commission. This item will stay on the agenda for November.

3. Palouse Pride Report

It was a good event; however, since the booth was set up at the very end of the table area, traffic wasn’t as high as the commission had hoped. Many attendees took buttons, and some high school students who showed interest in the commission.

4. Supporting Immigrants, Undocumented People, and Related Groups in the Community - Welcoming City Status Application (combined)

Adopting a welcoming city status is a significant step, and it was recommended that the commission delay on making a proposal until after a new council and mayor are elected.

Argersinger noted that the application is submitted every two years, with October 20th as the deadline for this cycle. The link to “Welcoming America” will be resent to commissioners for their awareness. This item will be scheduled for further discussion at the January agenda.

5. Discussion of Future Agenda Items – Budget Constraints and Priorities

- De-Escalation Education
- Human Trafficking Exhibit

There was discussion, and this item will be added to the January agenda for further discussion. Budget constraints are a factor for future events. Another Restorative Justice Forum was also suggested.

6. Marketing and Messaging – Mowrer

There was no report.

7. Sheikh Award – City Council Chambers, Thursday, November 6, 7:00 p.m.

The Sheikh Award will be filmed for the Sheikh children because they are unable to attend.

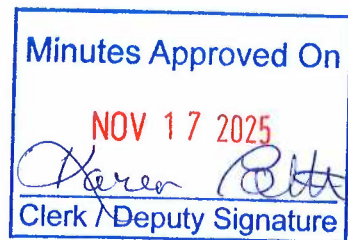
8. Report on Hate Incidents / Moscow as an Inclusive Community

Dahlinger reported there were no new incidents reported through the Bias Reporting System. Students who attended the dinner showed interest in finding more ways to spread the word about the system.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 5:07 p.m.



Erin Agidius, Chair