

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION



Erin Agidius
Chair
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,
February 17, 2026**

4:00 PM

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

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Elizabeth Stevens, Nicholas Smiley-Kallas, John Freeland, Jim Huggins, Rula Awwad-Rafferty
ABSENT: Jana Argersinger, Vanessa Stevens, Erin Agidius
STAFF: Anthony Dahlinger (staff liaison), Karen Potter (deputy clerk), Sandra Kelly (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 Minutes for January 20, 2026 (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 as amended, and Awwad-Rafferty seconded the motion. Vote: Ayes: Five. 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.

There was an addition to the minutes:

- Immigrant Rights Forum on March 24, at 6:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers

4. 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.

REPORTS

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

The MLK Breakfast was wonderful. Many commissioners and city council members attended. The mayor presented the Art and Essay Awards. There were 10 individual awards. Twelve ESL students from Westpark Elementary submitted a piece for the group award. The task force will sponsor a Living Voices presentation, “Our Revolution,” on May 7th for schools and will also host a public presentation at the 1912 Center’s LeCompte Auditorium.

2. **Staff Liaison Update - Dahlinger**

Dahlinger provided answers to questions from January’s meeting:

Future City Survey. A few years ago, the city split the city and commission surveys and sent one of them out every other year; however, they have decided to combine the surveys again, which will be sent to residents this fall.

Virtual Meeting Attendance. Unless exceptional circumstances exist, City Administration has requested that commissioners attend commission meetings in person. “Exceptional circumstances” are defined as an unplanned emergency. In that case, virtual attendance may be authorized only if necessary to conduct business in a timely manner and to make a quorum. City Administration is working to incorporate this information into a formal city policy.

3. **Better Together Dinner – Argersinger**

Argersinger provided Stevens with an update on Items 3, 4, and 7. Argersinger is working with Huggins on dinner expenses for the spring break report to the City Council. Commissioners will hold a ripple map meeting to discuss the results from the dinner and planned action. Information from this meeting will also be presented to Moscow City Council members by the commissioners, the Latah County Human Rights Task Force, and members of UI’s ASUI to the city council. Potter will check with the city clerk to determine whether the ripple map meeting will require an agenda, etc.

4. **Welcoming Schools / Welcoming Cities – Argersinger**

Argersinger has contacted Briana Broberg, who works with Welcoming America and is based in St. Paul. Argersinger will provide information for March’s meeting regarding the Fall 2027 application cycle and on Moscow’s eligibility to join the Welcoming America movement. Argersinger will ask Broberg to attend a commission meeting via Zoom to answer questions.

5. **Mapping Subcommittee – Awwad-Rafferty**

Awwad-Rafferty will connect with Stevens on this item.

6. **Social Justice Forums**

- Know Your Rights Workshop: Immigrants, Refugees, and Allies – Agidius
This forum will be held on Tuesday, March 24, 2026, at 6 p.m. in the Council Chambers. Geoffrey Heeren, UI immigration lawyer, will speak about

The basic rights and protections of immigrants. The task force will bring its exhibit from the MLK Breakfast to the event.

- **Discrimination and Harassment**

There was a discussion. This forum will cover various discrimination and harassment issues, such as hate crimes and microaggressions. Smiley-Kallas will contact Mia Vowels, the UI Law School, Agidius, and ACLU to find potential speakers or presenters and ask for suggestions for others. Smiley-Kallas will compile a list of cities across the state that have human rights organizations.

7. Human Rights Coalition – Argersinger

Argersinger hopes to work with the task force to create a community human rights coalition. Nine organizations participated in follow-up meetings for last spring's 'United in Community' event and have discussed forming a coalition. Typically, human rights groups operate without government involvement. Smiley-Kallas will gather a list of Idaho cities that have human rights organizations active in their communities.

8. Marketing and Messaging – Agidius

There has been a public records request for the commission's button design. Agidius contacted the UI Journalism/Mass Media Department to see if any students are interested in working with the commission on its marketing and messaging. Kelly added that she knows of several students who would be interested.

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

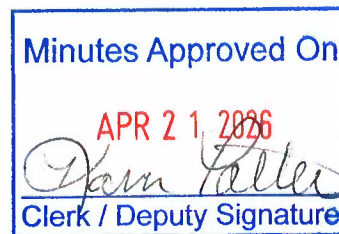
No bias incidents have been reported since November.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. HRC at the Market Dates. The Moscow Farmer's Market has sent potential market dates to the commission for review. Stevens will send a Doodle poll to check the commissioners' availability to table at this event.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m.



Elizabeth Stevens, Co-Chair