

**Minutes
Human Relations Commission
April 13, 2010**

**Minutes of the HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION held on TUESDAY, April 13, 2010
6:00 P.M. at City Hall, 3rd Floor Conference Room, 31 East Fifth Street, Tempe, Arizona.**

(MEMBERS) Present:

Florence Boyle, Chair
Colleen Byron
Kathy Dietz
Armando Espinoza
Frank Morales
Jay Scherotter
Thaddeus Swiecki
Josephine Vega

(MEMBERS) Absent:

Joseph Mann
Robert Marshak
Kade Twist
Patricia Young

Diversity Staff Present:

Rosa Inchausti, Diversity Manager
Ginny Belousek, Sr. Diversity Specialist

Guests Present:

None

Meeting convened at 6:10 P.M.

Chair Florence Boyle called the meeting to order and invited members of the public to address the Commission.

Agenda Item 1 – Public Appearances

None

Agenda Item 2 –Consideration of Minutes

March 9, 2010, Commission Minutes

Motion made by Commissioner Colleen Byron to ACCEPT minutes.

Second by Commissioner Jay Scherotter.

Minutes APPROVED.

Agenda Item 3 – Diversity Unity Grant Update

Kathy Dietz stated that there was no official report, however in view of the upcoming cut to the Unity Grants budget, she made a suggestion to the Commission that it consider creating a Diversity Dialogue program for teens, with the idea of teaching respect and tolerance in high schools. The Commission discussed the suggestion and agreed that it is a wonderful idea.

Motion: Colleen Byron moved that the Commission pursue the idea of a teen Diversity Dialogue and that a sub-committee be established to meet separately to come up with recommendations.

Second: Armando Espinoza

Discussion: Jay Scherotter said he wants to hear from staff about their capacity to support a new program. Rosa Inchausti replied that if the program is created the Diversity Department will find a way to make it happen.

Decision: Approved unanimously.

The volunteers for the sub-committee are: Jay Scherotter, Thaddius Swiecki, Kathy Dietz, Josie Vega, Florence Boyle and Frank Morales.

Agenda Item 4 – Regional HRC Meeting Wrap-Up

Rosa Inchausti reported that she received much feedback from Commissioners regarding the recent Regional HRC meeting. She then shared an e-mail from Commission Bob Marshak. Bob wrote that he was disappointed in the Regional meeting, as too much time was spent discussing process, rather than issues. He stated that he thought the purpose of the meeting was to discuss any mutual problems within the region, or detail situations in individual cities to see if similar situations existed elsewhere, thus opening a forum for problem solving. Commissioners Byron and Dietz agreed with Commissioner Marshak's comments. They stated that the process discussion was too long, as the regional group is too large for this type of discussion. Rosa mentioned that a planning meeting is being scheduled with the HRC chairs and staff prior to the next Regional meeting, which is scheduled for May in Mesa. Rosa suggested that the HRCs memorialize the goals of the Regional HRC for historical purposes.

Commissioner Dietz stated that she was very impressed that Mayor Hallman and Councilmember Woods attended the meeting. Rosa shared that Councilmember Ellis was also there, but due to the early start of the meeting she unfortunately missed the opening welcome. Commissioner Dietz suggested that the Board send thank you notes to Mayor Hallman and Councilmember Woods and Ellis for attending the meeting.

Agenda Item 5 – Diversity Department Update

- A. Cesar Chavez Coloring Contest** – Ginny Belousek reported that the Diversity Department partnered with Meyer School this year for the annual Cesar Chavez Coloring Contest. The purpose of the coloring contest is to further educate students about the life of Cesar Chavez. The

- B.** Diversity Department provided the teachers with a lesson packet to assist them in educating the children on Cesar Chavez' service and calling. The children were then encouraged to think about their own public service calling while reinforcing the importance of serving others. Students drew two pictures -- one of Cesar Chavez serving others and the other depicting their future calling. Students in grades Kindergarten through 5th Grade participated in the coloring contest and two winners were selected per grade level. The winners will be recognized by Mayor Hugh Hallman at the April 22 Council meeting. Rosa encouraged the Commissioners to attend the meeting to congratulate the winners.
- C. GSA Education Update** – Rosa Inchausti reported that the Diversity Department and the GSA are working with the Tempe Learning Center to have the Inclusion/LGBT training adopted by the City. The Diversity Department has written the curriculum and is now reviewing the draft with the GSA Educational Subcommittee. The biggest issue at this point is whether the city will allow the training to be made mandatory. The training includes overall diversity, federal guidelines, ADA, and LGBT topics. Commissioner Jay Scherotter stated that he would like to make an official statement from the HRC to advocate for mandatory Inclusion training. Commissioner Armando Espinoza suggested that the Commission review the curriculum before issuing a statement of support. Commissioner Byron suggested that in the interest of time the Commission draft a two-sentence statement for the Diversity Department to take back to the City Manager's office immediately. Commissioner Scherotter agreed, saying that on principle the Commission should support this training. Commissioner Dietz suggested that all elected officials and city board members attend this important training.

Motion: Colleen Byron moved that we, the Human Relations Commission, deliver the following resolution to the City Manager through the Assistant City Manager as soon as the Commission's staff can most expeditiously deliver it. "We, the Human Relations Commission strongly support the creation of Inclusion Training to be required of all managerial and supervisory personnel. We commit to thoroughly review the materials and offer thoughtful and carefully considered input to facilitate the best and most useful training."

Second: Jay Scherotter

Vote: Passed unanimously

Commissioner Byron will work on a draft letter to bring to the next commission meeting. She would like the commission to review the training materials at the next meeting.

- D. Disability Awards:** Rosa invited the commission to attend the annual Mayor's Commission on Disability Awards on April 29th from 3:30 – 5:30 p.m. at the Pyle Adult Recreation Center.

Agenda Item 6 – Current Events Announcements

Commissioner Dietz shared an article from the newspaper, “Southern Poverty Law Center” entitled, “Angry Radical Right Catches Fire,” in which Phoenix is listed as a hot spot.

Commissioner Byron recommended the musical, “All the More to Love,” which is playing at the Phoenix Theatre. The show is about a woman who runs a used clothing store for overweight women. It is very funny and sends a tremendous message about body image.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 P.M.

Prepared by: Ginny Belousek

Reviewed by: Rosa Inchausti

Rosa Inchausti, Diversity Manager