

**Minutes
Human Relations Commission
January 11, 2011**

**Minutes of the HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION held on Tuesday, January 11, 2011,
6:00 P.M. at City Hall, 3rd Floor Conference Room, 31 East Fifth Street, Tempe, Arizona.**

(MEMBERS) Present:

Belinda Chiu
Armando Espinoza
Joseph Mann
Frank Morales
Jay Scherotter
Thaddeus Swiecki
Dr. Patricia Young

(MEMBERS) Absent:

Florence Boyle
Kathy Dietz
Kade Twist
Josephine Vega

Diversity Staff Present:

Rosa Inchausti, Diversity Administrator
Dee Hodson, Diversity Office Assistant

Guests Present:

none

Meeting convened at 6:04 P.M.

Commissioner Young 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

**December 14, 2010, HRC Commission Minutes
Motion made by Commissioner Mann to ACCEPT minutes.
Second by Commissioner Espinoza.
Minutes APPROVED.**

Agenda Item 3 – Diversity Unity Grant Update – Caterina Mena

Caterina Mena, Management Assistant at Tempe Community Council (TCC), reported on the Diversity Unity Grants. Caterina explained that the Diversity Unity Grants are mini-grants for pilot and continuing programs in the Tempe Union High School District that promote civility and respect. Caterina reported in 2010 that due to budget constraints the Diversity Unity Grants might be cut. TCC was able to preserve some funding but it went from \$25,000 for 2010 to \$16,000 for 2011. Caterina said that TCC is unsure of funding moving forward for 2012 but TCC is looking into private funding options. Caterina reported three schools submitted proposals this year. Four TCC Board Members and two HRC Commissioners read and scored the proposals. Caterina then entered the scores into a formula to acquire the funding recommendations. The result is a one page document including the funding recommendation, a brief description of their program, their total score out of a maximum score of sixteen and the number of students they seek to serve. Caterina is seeking HRC approval on the awards.

Commissioner Mann asked if any junior high schools were involved in the grant proposals. Caterina said that Marcos de Niza invites the junior high students to attend their Unity Week. Commissioner Scherotter asked for clarification on the length of the Marco de Niza Awareness Celebration. Caterina explained that Marcos de Niza has a Diversity Week that includes celebrations of different ethnic backgrounds. Caterina will send HRC Commissioners invitations to the awarded programs. Commissioner Mann stated that he had a problem with Aztec Town/Any Town because it didn't serve that many students and it was difficult to bring the information learned, back to the high school. Commissioner Young added that the awards impacted a large number of students. Caterina explained that the schools were able to get more than they requested because less programs applied this year. The maximum allotment per school was \$4,000. Commissioner Mann asked what happened to the McClintock High School program. Caterina said that McClintock's program coordinator experienced a family crisis and therefore McClintock did not go through with their 2010 program. Commissioner Young asked if the awarded money must be used within the year it was requested. Caterina explained that leftover funds may not be rolled over into the following year. Commissioner Young thanked Caterina and TCC for maintaining the vision needed to continue to offer these funding opportunities. Commissioner Young then asked if alumni who participated in these programs were ever asked to return and share their experiences. Caterina reported that no but that she has received feedback from the coordinators about what some of the students have done as they continued past their high school years. Caterina said she would ask the coordinators to be prepared to share some of the student's stories when they came to present in June.

Motion: Commissioner Mann moved to accept the Diversity Unity Grants

Second: Commissioner Scherotter

Motion Unanimously Approved

Agenda Item 4 – MLK Diversity Awards Update – Dr. Patricia Young

Commissioner Young suggested we have a moment of silence at the MLK Brunch remembering the tragedy which occurred in Tucson last week. Rosa said she will check with the Mayor to see if he is including something about the event in his speech. Commissioner Young reported the subcommittee met last week to vote on the final award recipients. Commissioner Young said they had a wonderful group of applicants this year, especially for the youth division. The MLK Brunch press release was passed out, listing the award winners with a description of their service. Commissioner Mann inquired about the number of RSVPs we have received to date. Dee reported the number is almost at 450 attendees. Commissioner Young asked what help was needed from the commissioners. Rosa said it's nice to have commissioners there a bit early to meet some of the award winners and thank people for attending and supporting the awards. Rosa said we would bring name tags for the commissioners.

Commissioner Scherotter inquired on the registration procedure. Commissioner Scherotter was concerned we would have a bottle neck with people paying at the last minute. Dee reported that she and Ginny had discussed the registration procedure which will be done with the help of Stand and Serve volunteers. The registration tables will be divided by alphabet and table assignments will be given to attendees when they register. If attendees have not paid, this is when payment will be received. Commissioner Scherotter asked what the procedure would be for the registration of awards winners. Commissioner Young suggested a special registration table for award winners. Commissioner Young asked how many seats were allotted per award winner. Dee stated that each award winner has one table seating ten people. Rosa said that Ginny is currently working on the table assignments including two HRC tables for commissioners.

Agenda Item 5 – Teen Diversity Dialogue Subcommittee Update – Kathy Dietz

Due to the absence of Commissioner Dietz, this agenda topic was tabled until the next HRC meeting.

Agenda Item 6 – Immigration Update – Armando Espinoza

Commissioner Espinoza began by reporting that the Dream Act was voted down in the Senate.

Commissioner Espinoza shared a December 30th Arizona Republic article about the progress of the Latino community. The article has statistics supporting the facts that unemployment is higher in the Latino community and that Latinos continue to lag behind educationally. The article ended on a positive note describing the increased buying power Latinos will experience as they exceed 1 trillion dollars of spending in the next four years.

Commissioner Espinoza continued with an editorial from the December 18th Arizona Republic, discussing immigration solutions. The article included the following points:

- A. Border Security** – to apprehend those entering the country illegally
- B. Guest Worker Program** – to meet demonstrated labor needs at the low and high end of the skill scale
- C. Worker Eligibility** – tough worksite enforcement with an effective system to confirm worker eligibility
- D. Path to Citizenship** – available for documented workers and families currently in the country

Commissioner Espinoza wondered why we can't begin a grassroots movement to create an Immigration Reform Bill.

Commissioner Espinoza wrapped up with a bulletin he received from the National Council of La Raza reporting that on January 5th, six state legislators from Arizona, Georgia, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania and South Carolina announced their intentions to gut the American Citizenship Clause enshrined in the 14th Amendment of the United States Constitution. Commissioner Espinoza explained that the National Council of La Raza is against changing the 14th Amendment and find Senator Pearce's proposals to be inflammatory, impractical and immoral. Commissioner Scherotter asked what Senator Pearce was proposing. Commissioner Espinoza explained that Senator Pearce wanted to change the 14th Amendment because it allows US Citizenship for those born in the United States. Commissioner Espinoza said Senator Pearce proposes those born in the United States be considered illegal. Commissioner Espinoza sees the proposal to change the 14th Amendment as another measure of the divisiveness the United States is currently experiencing.

Commissioner Young said that research has proven the Latino Community to be a younger group with larger families and wondered what the increased spending potential for Latinos would be if they were college educated.

Commissioner Young said that the recent acts in Tucson and the negativity that has transpired throughout this country, proves the extreme need to have HRCs. Commissioner Young asked the commissioners to realize the value of their participation and the impact of the volunteering of their time. Commissioner Young said that during the pain of last week, there is no better time to recognize the positive impact HRC has made and the MLK Brunch is a perfect example of that work. Commissioner Young thanked the Commissioners for all the work they do and ended by saying that the MLK Brunch will be a very powerful event.

Agenda Item 7 – Diversity Department Update – Rosa Inchausti

Rosa stated that the Unity Walk is February 5, 2011. The congregation point is Lot 59 and the Diversity Office will be bringing the HRC banner. Rosa asked the Commissioners to please let the Diversity Office know if you will be attending. Commissioner Young inquired about return transportation. Commissioner Morales said he read that return transportation will be provided. Rosa said the Diversity office will e-mail Regional Unity Walk details next week after the MLK Brunch.

Agenda Item 8 – Current Event Announcements

Commissioner Young reviewed the following current events.

- A. MLK Diversity Awards Brunch, January 17, 2011, 9:30 a.m.** Commissioner Young encouraged everyone to come early to assist and to ease parking.
- B. Diversity Dialogues, January 19, 2011 – March 2, 2011, 6-7:30 p.m.** Commissioner Young reported the dialogues will be held at the Tempe Library. Rosa said applications are still being accepted and she encouraged participation.
- C. Regional Unity Walk, February 5, 2011 – Walk begins at 10:30 a.m.**
Please report to starting locations by 10 a.m.

Rosa wanted to confirm everyone had the Diversity Office phone numbers. Rosa's cell phone number is 480-262-0327, Rosa's office phone number is 480-350-8999 and the Diversity Office main line, Dee Hodson's, is 480-350-2905.

Motion: Commissioner Mann moved to adjourn the meeting

Second: Commissioner Espinoza

Meeting adjourned at 6:40 P.M.

Prepared by: Dee Hodson

Reviewed by: Rosa Inchausti

Rosa Inchausti, Diversity Administrator