



Minutes Human Relations Commission September 13, 2011

Minutes of the HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION held on Tuesday, September 13, 2011, 6:00 P.M. at City Hall, 3rd Floor Conference Room, 31 East Fifth Street, Tempe, Arizona.

(MEMBERS) Present:

Hannah Auckland
Don Calender
Kathy Dietz
Armando Espinoza
Joseph Mann
Frank Morales
Jay Scherotter
Thaddeus Swiecki
Dr. Patricia Young

(MEMBERS) Absent:

Florence Boyle
Belinda Chiu
Josephine Vega

Diversity Staff Present:

Rosa Inchausti, Diversity Administrator
Dee Hodson, Diversity Office Assistant

Guests Present:

None

Meeting convened at 6:00 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

August 9, 2011, HRC Commission Minutes

Motion made by Commissioner Espinoza to ACCEPT minutes.

Second by Commissioner Mann.

Minutes APPROVED.

July 12, 2011, HRC Commission Minutes

Motion made by Commissioner Scherotter to ACCEPT minutes.

Second by Commissioner Calender.

Minutes APPROVED.

Agenda Item 3 – Boards & Commissions Powers & Duties from the City Clerk – Rosa Inchausti

Rosa explained the City Attorney's office had informed all City of Tempe boards and commissions that they do not have the authority to create committees and sub-committees to work on issues and make recommendations to the board/commission. All current sub-committees are to be discontinued. Commissioner Calender asked for clarification. Rosa's interpretation from the City Attorney, Andrew Ching, is that workgroups smaller than a quorum are allowed to work outside normal commission meetings. Discussion included how this was different from how Human Relations Commission sub-committees had been handled in the past. Ordinance 2008.01 was modified in 2008 but has become an issue with recent downsizing and as community members got involved with commission sub-committees. Commissioner Dietz asked if workgroups conducted without agendas or minutes would be in compliance with the Open Meeting Law. Commissioner Auckland replied that having a group size less than a quorum makes it compliant.

Motion: Commissioner Espinoza moved to disband and terminate Human Relations Commission subcommittees to be in compliance with the City Attorney's office.

Second: Commissioner Calender

Motion Unanimously Approved

Agenda Item 4 – Utah Compact – Patricia Young

Commissioner Young referred to the HRC July 12, 2011 minutes in which the Utah Compact had been discussed. The most recent Regional HRC meeting included information about Mesa's Compact which basically mirrors the Utah Compact. The Phoenix HRC is working on a Phoenix compact and Tempe HRC wondered if there should be a Tempe Compact. At the HRC's July 12, 2011 meeting it was indicated that nominations be brought to tonight's meeting for someone to lead a group researching compacts of surrounding cities and if the Tempe HRC should create a Tempe Compact.

Commissioner Young called for nominations or volunteers. Commissioner Dietz nominated Commissioner Espinoza. Commissioner Scherotter asked what the timeline would be and who the audience is for a Tempe Compact. Commissioner Young replied the audience would be the City of Tempe community and it would be expected to take the rest of the year to complete. Commissioner Dietz said it would be helpful to get the six points that Scottsdale has currently developed. Rosa said she would get that information from Velicia McMillan and forward it to the commissioners. Commissioner Young suggested that the Compact workgroup get information from any surrounding cities that are researching doing their own compacts.

Commissioner Espinoza asked if the Compact workgroup's role was to study what is already out there and work with the other commissions or to create a unified compact. Commissioner Young clarified the current role would be to research a Tempe Compact but that a Regional Compact could be discussed. Commissioner Dietz reported a Regional Compact had been brought up at the last Regional meeting. Historically it has been difficult to have the regional HRCs work together but there was a lot of interest in

supporting each other. Commissioner Young said it would be great to have the compact ready for the Unity Walk in February. Commissioner Scherotter volunteered to be part of the Compact workgroup. Commissioner Espinoza accepted the nomination to lead the Compact workgroup with the assistance of Commissioner Scherotter. Commissioner Young asked for any additional volunteers. Commissioner Dietz and Commissioner Auckland will also serve on the workgroup.

Agenda Item 5 – MLK Diversity Awards Feedback – Florence Boyle

Commissioner Young originally tabled this item due to Commissioner Boyle's absence but then asked for input from anyone who attended the recent MLK DVD viewing meeting. Commissioner Morales, who attended, reported the meeting turned out to be more of a discussion about how to get the teens more involved in the MLK Brunch rather than the originally scheduled DVD viewing. The Diversity Office will schedule an additional MLK workgroup meeting and disseminate that information. Commissioner Young would like to keep this item on next month's HRC meeting.

Agenda Item 6 – Teen Diversity Dialogue Update – Kathy Dietz & Armando Espinoza

Commissioner Dietz began with reporting about the great diversity facilitator training that Commissioner Espinoza conducted. The Teen Diversity Dialogue program began August 30th with a group of 8 teenagers from a cross section of Tempe high schools. The program is being co-facilitated by Commissioner Chiu and community member Leah Abriani. Commissioner Espinoza sat in on the first session and was impressed with the group of engaged teenagers. Commissioner Espinoza said the group quickly bonded with each other and with the facilitators. The weekly evaluations have been very positive.

Commissioner Young commended the commissioners that worked diligently to see this program come to fruition. It is exciting to see a successful pilot program creating future diversity ambassadors.

Commissioner Espinoza asked what the future plans are for continuing Teen Diversity Dialogue. Rosa explained the Adult Diversity Dialogue program is held in the spring. Due to budget and staff restraints it might be difficult to run the programs concurrently on different evenings. Rosa suggested the commissioners discuss alternating the two programs between fall and spring or run the program on the same evening. Commissioner Espinoza was concerned we would lose the teenager's momentum if we didn't continue this spring. Commissioner Young asked if the teen and adult programs could run concurrently on the same night, being held in different rooms. The consensus was this might work with the two groups being able to mingle during pizza and then come together for the last meeting's potluck. Commissioner Scherotter asked to add a Teen Diversity Dialogue Summary to the HRC agenda to review lessons learned and make recommendations for the future.

All commissioners are invited to participate in the last meeting's potluck on October 4th at 6 p.m. in the Tempe Library in the lower level meeting room. Rosa added the students will be recognized at a future City Council meeting. Ginny Belousek will communicate that information to the teenagers.

Agenda Item 7 – Immigration Update – Armando Espinoza

Commissioner Espinoza shared an article from the September 6th Arizona Republic regarding the increased Islamic voice in the valley. Nationally there are a number of patriotic Islamist groups who are determined to reshape the public's perception of Muslims and Islamists.

Commissioner Young reflected on the growing Ramadan dinner the HRC has enjoyed in the last few years. The Commissioners hope it continues to grow and possibly gets moved to the Mosque or a high school auditorium to accommodate additional participants.

Agenda Item 8 – Change of HRC Chair – Patricia Young

Commissioner Young shared that she has accepted a new position as an Assistant Clinical Professor coordinating the Master of Counseling and the Master of School Counseling programs for NAU's north campus at Greenway Road and the I-17. Commissioner Young is having issues getting to the HRC meetings in time and would like to discuss an interim chair for the remaining of the year although she will continue as a commissioner. As the current Vice-Chair, Commissioner Morales was asked if he would like to step in as interim chair until the elections for Chair and Vice-Chair are held in December. Commissioner Morales replied that he would be the interim chair but would prefer to retain his Vice-Chair position for the remainder of his term. Commissioner Espinoza nominated himself to fill in for the balance of the year. Commissioner Morales nominated Commissioner Dietz. Commissioner Dietz approved of Commissioner Espinoza as interim chair. Commissioner Young called for a vote to approve Commissioner Espinoza as interim Chair. Commissioners voted unanimously for Commissioner Espinoza as interim Chair. Rosa reiterated that chair and vice chair nominations for the coming year will take place at the December HRC meeting. Typically the Chair and Vice-Chair's first official meeting is emceeding the MLK Diversity Awards Brunch at Tempe Buttes.

Agenda Item 9 – Diversity Department Update – Rosa Inchausti

A. Tardeada, October 9, 2011

Rosa invited the commissioners to attend the 12th annual Tardeada on Sunday, October 9th from noon – 8 p.m. at the Tempe Library complex. The Diversity Office will send out the Tardeada agenda to the Commissioners.

B. AMCA Mixer, September 20, 2011 from 4-6pm in the Transportation Building, Don Cassano Room

Rosa explained that Tempe is hosting the Associated Minority Contractors of America (AMCA) Mixer on Tuesday, September 20th at the Transportation Building and invited the Commissioners to attend. One of the past HRC Commissioners, Muhammed Zubair, helped to create Tempe's Diversity Supplier program and this mixer is an opportunity to meet some of the local businesses and AMCA's Executive Director, Ricardo Carlo.

Commissioner Young shared a flyer from the Town of Gilbert advertising a variety of events Celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month from September 15th – October 15th.

Rosa shared information about a forum in the "Healing Racism" Series entitled Who's the Fairest of them All? Hair, Skin, Color and Race in America, held Thursday, September 22, 2011 from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. at the Phoenix College, Dome Auditorium, 3110 N. 10th Avenue.

Commissioner Dietz passed out a flyer she received from a Third Grade Teacher's Diversity program.

Meeting adjourned at 7:00 P.M.

Prepared by: Dee Hodson

Reviewed by: Rosa Inchausti

Rosa Inchausti, Diversity Administrator