

Minutes

Human Relations Commission

March 28, 2023

Minutes of the HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION held on Tuesday, March 28, 2023, 6:00 p.m., held both In-Person & Virtually: Tempe Public Library 2nd Floor Conference Room, 3500 South Rural Road, Tempe, AZ 85282 & Microsoft Teams at the following link: [Join Microsoft Teams Meeting](#) or by telephone: +1 480-498-8745 United States, Phoenix (Toll), Conference ID: 256 724 057#

(MEMBERS) Present:

Tom Brown
Pamela Chan
Melissa Farling
Joe Rojas
Peggie Simmons (late)
Hugo Tapia
Candyce Lindsay
Kate Vawter

(MEMBERS) Absent:

Rabbanni Furqaan
William Ortega
David Reynolds

City Staff Present:

Dr. Velicia McMillan Humes, Chief Diversity Officer
Ginny Belousek, Equity & Inclusion Manager
Jamie Rodriguez, Executive Assistant to CMO
Paul Bentley, Deputy Human Services Director
Kristen Scharlau, Human Services Manager

Guests

None

Call to Order

Chair Tapia called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

Agenda Item 1 – Public Appearances

None

Agenda Item 2 – Consideration of Minutes: HRC – February 21, 2023

Motion made by Commissioner Melissa Farling to approve the February 21, 2023 minutes; Second by Commissioner Candyce Lindsay. Motioned pass on a 7-0 vote. Ayes: Chair Tapia and Commissioners Pamela Chan, Candyce Lindsay, Kate Vawter, Tom Brown, Joe Rojas, Melissa Farling. Nays: None. Absent: Commissioners Peggy Simmons, Rabbanni Furqaan, William Ortega and David Reynolds

Agenda Item 3 – Care 7 Victim Services / City of Tempe Public Safety Advisory Task Force – Paul Bentley & Kristen Scharlau

Chair Tapia Introduced Paul Bentley and Kristen Scharlau to the commission. Paul and Kristen then presented the attached PowerPoint and gave an overview of the Care 7 Victim Services.

They then opened the floor for questions or comments. The Commission asked if people residing outside of Tempe can seek the services provided by Care 7. Ms. Scharlau responded yes, Care 7 serves

anyone who seeks assistance. The commission also asked how people can learn about this service. Victims in need of assistance can call 480-350-8004. This number is publicized in many areas across Tempe. Care 7 also has a youth specialist within the high schools, and contact information is provided to students. Additionally, information is available on Tempe's website, and Kris and Paul attend meetings throughout the city to inform people about the Care 7 Victim Services. The HRC asked how they can be of help. Kristen and Paul responded that sharing what they learned tonight with their contacts would be extremely helpful.

The Commission thanked Paul and Kristen.

Agenda Item 4 – 2050 General Plan Update – Commissioner Simmons

Commissioner Simmons gave a report on the 2050 General Plan Committee. She shared that at the last meeting Art and Culture was highlighted. The goal is to increase art throughout the City. It was discussed the need to work with developers to implement art plans into their projects. They are also looking at what areas of Tempe are currently lacking art.

Agenda Item 5 – REMINDER: May Retreat - Belongings Dialogue – (Date: May 13, 2023)

The May meeting will be the Belongings Retreat. It will take place in the Connections Café Room from 8am-4pm. Ginny Belousek then informed the Commission on other upcoming events and encouraged the Commission to attend. 1) Neighborhood Awards. This event will be on Saturday, April 1st from 9-11 a.m. at the Kiwanis Park Fiesta Ramadas. The Dolores Huerta scholarships will be presented at this event. 2) All-Abilities Awards on Tuesday, April 4th, 4-6 p.m. at the Tempe Center for the Arts. RSVP to Ginny. 3) Ramadan Dinner immediately following the April 11th HRC meeting. The meeting will be in the Museum Board Room at 5:45, then will adjourn to the Ramadan Dinner at 6 p.m. Please let Ginny know if you will be attending. You are invited to bring a guest.

Agenda Item 6 - CEASE AZ Human Trafficking Training Opportunity

Dr. Velicia McMillian-Humes informed the Commission that the City has achieved 80% employee training completion and as such has achieved CEASE City designation. The City will be presented their CEASE City designation at the April 20th City Council meeting at 6:00. Ginny will send out a meeting notification to the Commission. All are encouraged to attend and celebrate this wonderful accomplishment which began as a recommendation by the HRC to the City Manager. Dr. Humes also informed the commission that moving forward all new employees will receive the training and all current employees will receive a refresher training every year.

Dr. Humes also reported that there will be an opportunity for City Board and Commission members to take the CEASE City training. Michelle Rucker, Director of CEASE Arizona is available to present the training at either the May or June HRC meetings. As the May meeting is the retreat, it was discussed cancelling the May meeting.

Motion:

Commissioner Kate Vawter moved to cancel the May HRC meeting due to the May 13th retreat, and to schedule the CEASE AZ training for the June 13th meeting.

Second: Commissioner Farling

Motion passed on an 8-0 vote. Ayes: Chair Tapia and Commissioners Tom Brown, Pamela Chan, Melissa Farling, Candyce Lindsay, Joe Rojas, Peggie Simmons and Kate Vawter. Nays: None. Absent: Commissioners Rabbanni Furqaan, William Ortega, and David Reynolds.

Agenda Item 7 – Proposed Future Agenda Items

Chair Tapia reiterated that the April meeting will be the Ramadan Dinner, the May meeting will be the Belongings Dialogues Retreat, and the June meeting will be a retreat recap and the CEASE City training. The Commission takes off in July.

Agenda Item 8 – Discussion of Upcoming Meeting Date – April 11, 2023

Meeting will be on Tuesday, April 11, 2023 at 5:45 p.m. in the Museum Board Room and will dismiss to the Ramadan Dinner.

Motion made by Commissioner Vawter to adjourn the meeting

Second by Commissioner Rojas

Meeting adjourned at 7:43 p.m.

Prepared by: Jamie Rodriguez

Reviewed by: Ginny Belousek