

Minutes Human Relations Commission September 12, 2017

Minutes of the HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION held on Tuesday, September 12, 2017, 6:00 p.m., at the City Hall, 3rd Floor Conference Room, 31 E. Fifth Street, Tempe, Arizona.

(MEMBERS) Present:

Rochelle Johns
Carl Hermanns
Ira King, Jr.
Jeanne Powers
David Kader
Dino Castelli
Chris Houk
Stefanie Garcia
Beth Dietz

(MEMBERS) Absent:

B. J. Ayers
Amanda Lee Faustini

City Staff Present:

Ginny Belousek, Diversity Manager
Megan Hutchison, Diversity Executive Assistant

Call to Order

Chair Hermanns called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

Agenda Item 1 – Public Appearances

Chair Hermanns introduced Dr. Cliff Moon to the commission. Dr. Moon is the Coordinator of Diversity & Inclusion at the Tempe Union High School district as well as the Chair of the Mesa HRC. Dr. Moon asked to attend the Tempe HRC Meeting for the DACA discussion. The commission welcomed Dr. Moon to the meeting and Chair Hermanns invited him to participate in the conversation.

Agenda Item 2 – Consideration of Minutes: HRC – August 8, 2017 Minutes (Motion Required)

MOTION: Commissioner Castelli moved to ACCEPT the minutes

SECOND: Commissioner Garcia

DECISION: Minutes unanimously APPROVED

Agenda Item 3 – Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)

Chair Hermanns mentioned how DACA was fresh on the minds of everyone due to the recent news coverage. He then turned the floor over to Commissioner Kader to discuss further. Commissioner Kader felt it was a matter of due diligence for the commission to discuss DACA due to its impact on our community. He then referenced the two emails that were attached to

the agenda, one from ASU President Crow and the other from Tempe Mayor Mark Mitchell. In regard to President Crow's statement, it is more of an action statement with tasks for specific people and teams being assembled. Tempe's statement hits the right tone but seems to be lacking the action that ASU's statement contains. Commissioner Kader then asked the commission if they felt the need to release a statement or take any action at this point. The commission discussed the inquiry and it was decided that Ginny Belousek would reach out to the Police Chief, Assistant Police Chief, Mayor's Chief of Staff, and Tempe's Government Relations Director and see what action plan is already in place. Once this information has been compiled, Ginny will reach out to Chair Hermanns and Commissioner Kader and it will be decided then if a statement is needed.

Agenda Item 4 – Cultural Day Discussion

Chair Hermanns turned the floor over to Commissioner Garcia. Commissioner Garcia referenced an email she had recently forwarded to the commission regarding an article on L.A. City Council's decision to replace Columbus Day with Indigenous Peoples Day on their city calendar. She stated it would be nice for the commission to possibly do something to celebrate the commission's successes with the community and showcase a more inclusive environment. She would like to keep the commission's momentum going after the release of the posters. Columbus Day does not need to be the main focus.

Commissioner Kader inquired if Columbus Day was indeed a city holiday. Ginny Belousek responded that Columbus Day is not a recognized City or State Holiday. Tempe currently celebrates Cesar Chavez Day in lieu of Columbus Day. Ginny suggested a PR campaign. She said the City's ADA Specialist did a social media blast each day for 26 days last October to celebrate Disability Awareness Month. The commission could do something similar to coincide with the September 18th hanging of the "Tempe welcomes you as you are" banner on Mill Avenue. Commissioner Powers recommended a weeks' worth of social media blasts to include Challenge Day, MLK, and Tardeada. Ginny responded that she would speak with the Diversity Departments Public Information Officer, Kris Baxter, to work on getting the press out for the unveiling of the banner and a week's worth of social media blasts.

Commissioner Dietz recommended the commission create an HRC Ambassador program within the community. Potential ambassadors could be adults and children with the potential to earn volunteer hours. Each school could have an HRC Ambassador that would promote HRC events within the schools and attend a commission meeting once a year to report any needs back to the commission for discussion and review. Chair Hermanns suggested one student to take on the role of liaison and attend HRC meetings every three to four months for updates. Commissioner Powers recommended the commission start looking for ambassadors in the Challenge Day clubs at the schools. Ginny stated that in past years she was invited to attend the District's Student Council meetings where many of the HRC-hosted events would be promoted. She then inquired with Dr. Moon if the Student Council Meetings still occurred and if she could request an invitation. Dr. Moon replied in the affirmative and they will further discuss Ginny attending the next Student Council Meeting.

Dr. Moon inquired with the commission on the possibility of offering Diversity Dialogues at the individual schools, perhaps at lunch time. After speaking with students, he discovered it was difficult for the students to attend events after school due to afternoon activities. Ginny responded that offering the Diversity Dialogue program at the schools may prove to be difficult when it comes to finding individuals to facilitate. Ginny recommended a few different options

such as sharing the curriculum with the schools and training parents and teachers to facilitate the program. Ginny will discuss further details with Dr. Moon. She will then look at creating a pilot program to be tested at one school.

Agenda Item 5 – Annual Board & Commission Report

Ginny Belousek reminded the commission that their 2017 Annual Report will need to be submitted to the City Clerk's Office in November. She then requested that the commission look over last year's report and email her with ideas on accomplishments from 2017 and future goals. Ginny will start compiling the report and will bring it to the October 10th meeting for review and approval by the commission.

Agenda Item 6 – Diversity Office Announcements

Ginny Belousek reminded the commission about the upcoming Tardeada festival on October 8th, Noon to 8pm.

Ginny gave an update on the upcoming Diversity Dialogues. The program starts on Monday, September 18th. Even though the program was advertised in the schools with the help of Dr. Moon, only two teenagers have signed up to participate. Ginny asked the commission if they should reconsider the teen program. The commission voiced their concerns on not offering the teen program since schools are very important to the community.

Ginny updated the commission on the upcoming MLK Diversity Awards Breakfast. A key note speaker has not yet been selected. She stated that a decision will need to be made soon since the event is quickly approaching.

Ginny gave an update on the upcoming Unity Walk. All of the participating cities have agreed to move the festival part of the event to before the walk at 4:30pm. Since the festival will be held before the walk, they will no longer start at two different locations. Also, food trucks will be invited to attend the festival.

Agenda Item 7 - Upcoming Meeting October 10, 2017

Per the request made at last month's HRC Meeting on August 8th, the October 10th HRC Meeting will be held at Commissioner Kader's home.

Motion made by Commissioner Castelli to adjourn the meeting
Second by Commissioner King
Meeting adjourned at 7:49 pm

Prepared by: Megan Hutchison

Reviewed by: Ginny Belousek