

## Minutes Human Relations Commission August 14, 2018

Minutes of the HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION held on Tuesday, August 14, 2018, 6:00 p.m., at the City Hall, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Conference Room, 31 E. Fifth Street, Tempe, Arizona.

**(MEMBERS) Present:**

Dino Castelli, Vice-Chair  
Beth Dietz  
Amanda Lee Faustini  
Rochelle Johns  
David Kader  
Ira King, Jr.  
Joe Rojas

**(MEMBERS) Absent:**

B. J. Ayers  
Stefanie Garcia  
Carl Hermanns, Chair  
Jeanne Powers

**City Staff Present:**

Ginny Belousek, Diversity Manager  
Megan Hutchison, Diversity Executive Assistant  
Elizabeth Thomas, Neighborhood Services Specialist

**Call to Order**

Vice-Chair Castelli called the meeting to order at 6:11 p.m.

**Agenda Item 1 – Public Appearances**

Anderson Wray  
Harrison Ambrose  
Melissa Smallwood  
Myron Scott

**Agenda Item 2 – Consideration of Minutes: HRC – June 13, 2018 Minutes (Motion Required)**

Motion by Commissioner Johns to approve the meeting minutes of June 13, 2018; second by Commissioner Faustini. Motion passed on a 7-0 vote.

Ayes: Vice-Chair Dino Castelli, and Commissioners Beth Dietz, Amanda Lee Faustini, Rochelle Johns, David Kader, Ira King, and Joe Rojas

Nays: None

Absent: Chair Carl Hermanns and Commissioners B.J. Ayers, Stefanie Garcia, and Jeanne Powers

**Agenda Item 3 – Neighborhood Advisory Commission**

Vice-Chair Castelli reminded the Commission of the discussions that took place at earlier meetings regarding the letter grading of schools. The concern is how a lower grade letter can negatively affect a school, especially when people are only focused on the letter grade. The Commission would like to know if there is anything they can do to help support the schools. They asked if the Neighborhood Advisory Commission works to support neighborhood schools.

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Ginny Belousek introduced Elizabeth Thomas to the Commission. Elizabeth thanked the Commission for the invitation. She then gave a brief overview of the Neighborhood Services Office and the Neighborhood Advisory Commission, which she staffs. She then let the Commission know that the letter grading system is not in their scope of work and unfortunately, they cannot make neighborhoods get more involved. She also mentioned that this concern has not been brought to the Neighborhood Advisory Commission. The Commission inquired in to the possibility of having a Getting Arizona Involved in Neighborhoods (GAIN) night held at one of the schools. Elizabeth responded that GAIN events are organized by neighborhoods and/or Homeowners Associations (HOAs). She then stated that they are usually held in a park and there might be a liability concern if they were to be hosted at a school. She then mentioned a grant program available to neighborhoods and/or HOAs from the City. These grants could provide opportunities for schools. She will send the grant application to Ginny Belousek for review and discussion at the next meeting. The Commission thanked Elizabeth for her time.

#### **Agenda Item 4 – Obama Foundation Project to help immigrant-owned businesses**

Vice-Chair Castelli introduced Harrison Ambrose and Anderson Wray to the Commission. Harrison thanked the Commission for allowing him to present regarding his project through the Obama Foundation Project. He then let the Commission know that his project was to help small, historically underutilized businesses. His project consists of two main goals: Creating a directory of historically underutilized businesses to facilitate business to business interaction & Launch regular monthly meetings for business owners to network and socialize. They have reached out to many businesses by walking in and cold calling them. They are still figuring out the best way to approach businesses to get community buy in and have the project become self-sustainable. The Commission then inquired as to how they can help. Mr. Ambrose responded that they are here to inform the Commission and are looking for any recommendations and advice. The Commission discussed and agreed to create a list of contacts that Ginny Belousek will forward on to Mr. Ambrose. The Commission then thanked Mr. Ambrose and Mr. Wray for their presentation.

#### **Agenda Item 5 – Immigration/Separation of Families**

Vice-Chair Castelli invited Melissa Smallwood and Myron Scott to the table to present. Melissa and Myron then gave the Commission a brief description of their group and what they are hoping to accomplish. They are a small group of concerned citizens, with varying backgrounds, trying to compile information and resources on what they can do regarding the separation of families. They are concerned about the current situation concerning lack of adequate vetting process with Southwest Key, the US Immigration and Customs Enforcement detention facility. Melissa and Myron requested that the Commission bring a Resolution forward to the Mayor and Council. They then distributed the proposed Resolution to the Commission for review. They acknowledged that Tempe does not have a detention facility within its City limits but was hoping that by gaining the support of the City of Tempe it would encourage the other cities, where Southwest Key operates, to take action. The Commission reviewed the proposed Resolution and then discussed what options were available to them to present to Council. They discussed the option of requesting the Council put forth a zoning ordinance not allowing detention centers within the City. The Commission decided further discussion was needed and requested the item be placed on the October agenda. The Commission then thanked Melissa Smallwood and Myron Scott for their presentation.

#### **Agenda Item 6 - Good Neighbors Project**

Commission Kader referenced the email that had been sent out to the Commission containing an article and a video regarding the Good Neighbors and the Lighthouses for Disabilities projects. He was interested in the Commission discussing and possibly exploring the idea of creating something similar here in Tempe. Ginny Belousek mentioned she had forwarded the Lighthouses for Disabilities to Michele Stokes since she staffs the Commission on Disability Concerns and that subject matter was in their purview. The Commission discussed the Good Neighbors project and determined they would invite someone from Neighbors Helping Neighbors to a future meeting to further discuss.

**Agenda Item 7 – Ambassador Project**

Commissioner Dietz reminded the Commission of the importance of creating an Ambassador Program with the Tempe Schools. The Commission discussed the issue and it was decided that Ginny Belousek would have a meeting with Commissioner Dietz to work on creating a plan that would then be presented to the Commission at a future meeting for review and discussion.

**Agenda Item 8 – Diversity Office Update**

Ginny Belousek informed the Commission that the next Regional HRC meeting will be held in Scottsdale on September 13<sup>th</sup>.

Ginny updated the Commission on the upcoming Diversity Dialogues. As of right now, three applications have been submitted. Continued recruitment publicity is being conducted through the City and School Districts. She will give an update to the Commission at the next meeting.

**Agenda Item 9 – Upcoming Meeting September 13, 2018 – Regional HRC Meeting**

**Motion made by Commissioner Johns to adjourn the meeting  
Second by Commissioner King  
Meeting adjourned at 8:14 pm**

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Prepared by: Megan Hutchison

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Reviewed by: Ginny Belousek