

Minutes

Human Relations Commission

February 9, 2021

Minutes of the HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION held on Tuesday, February 9, 2021, 6:00 p.m., virtually through Microsoft Teams at the following link: [Join Microsoft Teams Meeting](#) or by telephone: +1 480-498-8745 United States, Phoenix (Toll), Conference ID: 936 327 717#

(MEMBERS) Present:

Melissa Farling
Jana Lynn Granillo
Michelle Donati-Grayman
William Ortega
Jeanne Powers
Joe Rojas
Peggie Simmons
Hugo Tapia
Kate Vawter

(MEMBERS) Absent:

Beth Dietz

City Staff Present:

Jonae Harrison, Equity & Inclusion Manager
Megan Hutchison, Executive Assistant to the City Manager's Office

Guests:

Keisha Acton
Sarrah Tekola
Sophia Elicia
Percy Christian

Call to Order

Acting Chair Powers called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

Agenda Item 1 – Public Appearances

None

At the request of Acting Chair Powers, the agenda items were taken out of order.

Agenda Item 4 – 2021 Chair/Vice Chair Officer Elections

Acting Chair Powers opened the floor for the nominations of Vice Chair.

Commissioner Rojas nominated Commissioner Tapia for Vice Chair; Second by Commissioner Donati-Grayman. Motion passed on a 9-0 vote. Ayes: Melissa Farling, Jana Lynn Granillo, Michelle Donati-Grayman, William Ortega, Jeanne Powers, Joe Rojas, Peggie Simmons, Hugo Tapia, and Kate Vawter. Nays: None. Absent: Commissioner Beth Dietz.

Acting Chair Powers opened the floor for the nominations of Chair.

Acting Chair Powers nominated Commissioner Vawter for Chair; Second by Commissioner Rojas. Motion passed on a 9-0 vote. Ayes: Melissa Farling, Jana Lynn Granillo, Michelle Donati-Grayman,

William Ortega, Jeanne Powers, Joe Rojas, Peggie Simmons, Hugo Tapia, and Kate Vawter. Nays: None. Absent: Commissioner Beth Dietz.

Agenda Item 2 – Consideration of Minutes: HRC – December 8, 2020

Motion made by Vice Chair Tapia to approve the meeting minutes of December 8, 2020; Second by Commissioner Donati-Grayman. Motion passed on a 9-0 vote. Ayes: Chair Vawter, Vice Chair Tapia, and Commissioners Melissa Farling, Jana Lynn Granillo, Michelle Donati-Grayman, William Ortega, Jeanne Powers, Joe Rojas, and Peggie Simmons. Nays: None. Absent: Commissioner Beth Dietz.

Agenda Item 3 – Introduction of New Commissioners – Melissa Farling, Peggie Simmons

Chair Vawter welcomed Melissa Farling and Peggy Simmons to the Commission and invited them to introduce themselves.

Agenda Item 5 – Dolores Huerta 2021 Award and Social Justice and Advocacy Day

Chair Vawter reminded the Commission that they had discussed and approved an award and advocacy day for Dolores Huerta one year ago. Jonae Harrison recapped the conversation from the meeting and let the Commission know that they would need to make a decision today on the wording of the application and the criteria for choosing a winner. The Commission discussed the criteria and the application verbiage. Motion made by Vice Chair Tapia to approve the following application verbiage, two essay questions, and the criteria for ranking the applicants. Application verbiage: Name/Contact Info, School/Graduation Year, Reference Letter #1 (Character), Reference Letter #2 (How relate work to Dolores Huerta), B Average – desired, and Direct applicants to Dolores Huerta Foundation link (www.doloreshuerta.org). Two essay questions: #1 - Describe how your projects or activities are in alignment with the Dolores Huerta Foundation in a. Community Organizing, b. Leadership Development, c. Civic Engagement or Policy Advocacy (500 words). #2 - Describe why you are passionate about your social justice work and how you hope to continue this work in the future. (500 words). Criteria for ranking the applicants: Connectivity between student work and DH Foundation – 30 points available, Passion about and desire to sustain their social justice work – 30 points available, Reference letter #1 – 15 points available, Reference letter #2 – 15 points available, Grade – 10 points available. Total points available - 100; Second by Commissioner Ortega. Motion passed on a 9-0 vote. Ayes: Chair Vawter, Vice Chair Tapia, and Commissioners Melissa Farling, Jana Lynn Granillo, Michelle Donati-Grayman, William Ortega, Jeanne Powers, Joe Rojas, and Peggie Simmons. Nays: None. Absent: Commissioner Beth Dietz. Jonae Harrison then let the Commission know that she would need three volunteers to vote on the winners. Commissioners Donati-Grayman, Granillo, Ortega and Vice Chair Tapia all volunteered. The winners of the scholarship will be honored at Tempe's Annual State of the Neighborhoods and Awards on April 17, 2021.

Agenda Item 6 – BLM Presentation of Updated Proposal

Jonae Harrison provided a recap of the events surrounding the BLM proposal. She then thanked Keisha Acton and Sarra Tekola for being present to discuss the updated BLM proposal. Sara and Keisha thanked the Commission for the invitation. They then let the Commission know that they are in the process of applying for a grant from Vitalyst to create a community roundtable where they will continue the work that was started with the Public Safety Advisory Task Force. They have already received several commitment letters from the City of Tempe: Councilmember Kuby, Deputy City Manager – Chief Financial Officer Ken Jones, and Strategic Management & Diversity Office (SMDO) Director Rosa Inchausti. Jonae Harrison let the Commission know that the SMDO has committed to being a liaison to BLM to assist them in getting any and all city data, information, and connections to city staff as needed. The Commission asked how they could assist. Keisha Acton responded that they could use the Commissions continued support, access to resources, and any information that would help with their research. The Commission agreed and thanked them for coming.

Agenda Item 7 – Proposed Future Agenda Items

Chair Vawter mentioned that nothing had been discussed during the meeting that would require being addressed at the next meeting. She then opened the floor for any items that should be on the next

Agenda. The Commission discussed and it was decided to add the following: Invite CARE7 to share how the City is equitably providing healthcare services and how they are tracking that, Update on the progress of the research being done by the Museum, The Right to Breath, and Events. Chair Vawter let the Commission know that if they have any additional items they would like added to future agendas, they should contact Jonae Harrison or Megan Hutchison.

Agenda Item 8 – Upcoming Meeting March 9, 2021

Meeting will be held virtually through Microsoft Teams

Motion made by Vice Chair Tapia to adjourn the meeting

Second by Commissioner Granillo

Meeting adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

Prepared by: Megan Hutchison

Reviewed by: Jonae Harrison