AGENDA ITEM 9

DATE 02-05-09

Tempe

Minutes
Human Relations Commission
December 9th, 2008

Minutes of the HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION held on Tuesday, December 9th, 2008 7:30 A.M. at University Club, ASU- Main Campus.

(MEMBERS) Present:
Colleen Byron
Florence Boyle
Arlene Chin
Joseph Mann
Gail Paredes-Ewen
Linda Ritland
Fentress Truxon
Josephine Vega
Janis Webb

(MEMBERS) Absent:
Zach Berning
Irina Pohoata
Muhammed Zubair
Patricia Young

City Staff Present:
Rosa Inchausti
Ginny Belousek
Brandy Naleski
Karl Stephens

Guests Present:
Hugh Hallman, Mayor
Shana Ellis, Vice-Mayor
Ben Arredondo, Councilmember
Corey Woods, Councilmember
Charlie Meyer, City Manager
Jeff Kulaga, Asst City Manager
Tom Ryff, Police Department Chief
Charles Cobbs, Police Department

Meeting convened at 7:40 A.M.

Chair Colleen Byron called the meeting to order and invited members of the public to address the Commission.

Agenda Item 1 – Public Appearances
None

Agenda Item 2- Welcome
Chair Colleen Byron welcomed everyone and thanked all guests for attending. Former commissioner Dr. Louis Olivas welcomed everyone to ASU and spoke of his past service on the commission. Mayor Hugh Hallman, Councilmember Ben Arredondo, Councilmember Corey Woods, Vice-Mayor Shana Ellis and City Manager Charlie Meyer thanked the commission for their service and shared a few words on the importance of the Human Relations Commission. Police Chief Tom Ryff also took a few minutes to thank the commission for their assistance in many police department related issues.

Agenda Item 3 –Consideration of Minutes
November 3rd, 2008 Commission Minutes
Commissioner Fentress Truxon requested a change to Item 5.

Motion made by Commissioner Linda Ritland to ACCEPT minutes with modification.
Second by Commissioner Joseph Mann
Minutes APPROVED.

(No Item 4 listed on agenda)

Agenda Item 5 – Farewell to Gail Paredes-Ewen
Chair Colleen Byron gave a touching farewell to Commissioner Gail Paredes-Ewen. Colleen shared three reasons why she valued Gail's service to the commission. First, Gail's kindness when Colleen first joined the commission; second, Gail's intelligence and third, Gail's insight and ability to see things that other's do not. Colleen added that Gail has always kept the commission true to its mission and showed attention to what the commission should be involved in and what it should not. Chair Byron pointed out that this is important since as a commission we lose our legitimacy if we do not stick to our charge.

Commissioner Paredes-Ewen thanked Colleen for the kinds words and stated that the commission is in good hands and encouraged everyone to keep up the good work.

Agenda Item 6- HRC Strategic Plan Update
Chair Colleen Byron requested an update from the following subcommittees:

A. **Subcommittee for Development of Emerging Issues Report:**
   1) **LGBT Issue** – Commissioner Janis Webb shared that the Gay/Straight Alliance recently adopted a mile along Rio Salado Parkway.
   2) **Hate Crimes Follow Up** – None
B. **Subcommittee for Community Network and Outreach:** Commissioner Linda Ritland stated that they are still working with the Strategic Oversight Committee.
C. **Subcommittee on Strategic Oversight:** Commissioner Gail Paredes-Ewen stated that the strategic planning session was postponed until after the first of the year.
D. **Supplier Diversity Subcommittee Report:** Chair Colleen Byron stated that she is looking forward to working on this subcommittee in more depth in the coming year. Staff Rosa Inchausti added that Roy Bautista is working with the city's procurement office with regards to procurement opportunities for veterans and individuals with disabilities.
E. **Diversity Awards Subcommittee Update** – Staff Ginny Belousek reported that the nominations for the diversity awards are due December 11th. The MLK Brunch will be held on January 19th, 2009. This year's keynote speaker will be Clovis Jones, VP of Western Region Tuskagee Airmen. The presentation of colors will be done by Buffalo Soldiers. Ginny is working to secure the Gospel Soul Circuit Choir again this year to sing. The invitations are currently at the printer and should be mailed out next week. The Diversity Department has secured a sponsorship for the event so the brunch will be free to the first 500 RSVP's. Commissioner Truxon thanked Ginny for listening to the subcommittees ideas. Ginny is working to get posters of the Tuskagee Airmen to display at the brunch. Commissioner Truxon stated he is very proud of the city for making this event free to the community.

Agenda Item 7- Chair & Vice-Chair Elections

Chair Colleen Byron thanked everyone for their service this past year, Colleen stated she is impressed with the different qualities each commissioner contributes, the ability of the commissioners to handle conflict and honoring and valuing each other's differences. Colleen thanked Rosa Inchausti for her service and for creating actual working diversity; she thanked Ginny Belousek for her planning of events. Colleen also thanked the other city officials present for taking the time to come before the commission.

Nominations:

Commissioner Truxon nominated Arlene Chin for Chair. No other nominations were made.
All commissioners voted unanimously for Arlene Chin as incoming Chair.

Commissioner Janis Webb nominated Fentress Truxon for Vice-Chair.
Commissioner Florence Boyle nominated Linda Ritland for Vice-Chair.
Commissioners voted by secret ballot. Vote was 6 for Linda Ritland, 3 for Fentress Truxon.
Linda Ritland is new Vice-Chair.

Agenda Item 8– Diversity Department Update

Staff Ginny Belousek and Rosa Inchausti shared an update on the Diversity Department:

A. Martin Luther King Event – Update given in Agenda Item 6 E above.

B. Memo to Council – Staff Ginny Belousek shared that a memo was recently provided to council regarding the upcoming MLK Diversity Awards Brunch and Unity Walk. The memo provided history of the two events and plans for the upcoming year.

C. Unity Walk - This year's Unity Walk will be February 7th and walkers will be meeting at Tempe Art Park for a Diversity festival.

D. Budget Impact Update – Staff Rosa Inchausti provided an update on the Budget impact to the Diversity Department, the PD Diversity Liaison and the ADA Position are set to be eliminated. The impact of losing the ADA position would be losing the expertise and the single point of contact that is beneficial with ADA issues. Rosa also stated that there is more bad news – the number of projected eliminations is now 180. Commissioner Paredes-Ewen stated she hopes that the PD Diversity position be re-evaluated when the budget improves. City Manager Charlie Meyer spoke that the city is making every effort to prevent layoffs. Commissioner Boyle pointed out the hope alive in this room. Everyone is conscious of the situation, advocacy begins with those affected. She urged everyone to keep positive hope about the future.

E. Calderon Report Update – Staff Rosa Inchausti reported that the report has not yet been made public, hopefully within the week. Rosa is hopeful that this report will become the springboard for positive change for the city and thanked the commissioners for their support.

Agenda Item 9-Current Events Announcements

None

The commission's next meeting is scheduled for January 13th, 2009.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 A.M.

Prepared by: Brandy Naleski

Reviewed by: Rosa Inchausti

Rosa Inchausti, Diversity Manager