AGENDA ITEM 19

DATE 07-22-08

Tempe

Minutes
Human Relations Commission
April 29th, 2008

Minutes of the HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION held on TUESDAY, April 29th, 2008 6:00 P.M. at City Hall, 3rd Floor Conference Room, 31 East Fifth Street, Tempe, Arizona.

(MEMBERS) Present:
Zach Berning
Arlene Chin
Joseph Mann
Gail Paredes-Ewen
Irina Pohaota
Linda Ritland
Fentress Truxon
Patricia Young

(MEMBERS) Absent:
Florence Boyle
Colleen Byron
Safali Patel-Evans
Janis Webb
Muhammed Zubair

City Staff Present:
Rosa Inchausti
Brandy Naleski
Ginny Belousek

Guests Present:
Andrew Ching, City Attorneys Office
Charles Cobb, Tempe Police Department
Chief Tom Ryff, Tempe Police Department
Srgt. Scott Smith, Tempe Police Department

Meeting convened at 6:05 P.M.

Vice Chair Arlene Chin called the meeting to order and invited members of the public to address the Commission.

Agenda Item 1 – Public Appearances
None

Agenda Item 2 –Consideration of Minutes
March 11th, 2008

Commissioner Fentress Truxon had a change to the March minutes.
MOTION: Commissioner Fentress Truxon made a motion to accept minutes as amended.
SECOND: Commissioner Linda Ritland
DECISION: Motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item 3 – Hate Crimes Update

Chief Tom Ryff first introduced Charles Cobb, Community Affairs Specialist for the Police Department. This is a new position for the police department and will be a direct contact for the public. Mr. Cobb introduced himself and shared some background about himself and his previous experience.

Sergeant Scott Smith gave an update on the offensive literature issue discussed at the February meeting. The individual has been identified and there are two active aggravated assault cases, one in Mesa and the other in Scottsdale. The Tempe incident will be used as aggravated circumstances for sentencing.

City Attorney Andrew Ching previously met with Commissioner Truxon and Chief Tom Ryff and members of the Police Department to discuss Hate Crime legislature. Andrew Ching provided the commission some history behind the current legislature. He stated that basically you "can't ban a message just because you don't like the message, but you can ban expressive conduct when there is intent to threaten". In Arizona, hate crime distinction is used as a sentence enhancement.

Commissioner Truxon thanked everyone for meeting with him. He has also asked the AZ Civil Rights Advisory Board to review the issue on their level.

Agenda Item 4 – Jewel in the Desert Exhibit

Ginny Belousek briefed the commission on an upcoming event celebrating the Muslim community. The Jewel in the Desert Committee has been meeting monthly. The event is centered around an art exhibit that will be on display at City Hall. It will start at the end of Ramadan on October 3rd with a invite only reception and open house at the Mosque. On Saturday, October 4th, there will be a Muslim cultural street festival at 6th Street Park.

Agenda Item 5 – Exhibits on African American Community

Rosa shared with the commission information about past exhibits showcased on the African American community. The first was took place in 1999 in connection to the first MLK Diversity Awards, the second was an exhibit titled "Beloved Community" which has been donated to the Washington Carver Museum in Phoenix. Amy Douglass, Museum Administrator, is now working to update the Tempe history movie and it will highlight a more diverse history within Tempe.

Agenda Item 6 –Inclusive Sign

Rosa informed the commission that the original inclusive sign was donated by National League of Cities. The sign was taken down due to deterioration. City Manager Charlie Meyer has requested that multiple new signs be put up at various city limit points. Alan Domsky is in the process of developing the new sign and Rosa shared some mock ups with the commission.

MOTION: Commissioner Gail Paredes-Ewen made a motion to move forward and give Alan Domsky free reign to design the new sign.
SECOND: Commissioner Joseph Mann
DECISION: Motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item 7 – Board & Commission Orientation Update

Commissioner Fentress Truxon had brought forth the issue that the African American community was not represented in the Tempe History video that is played at the Boards & Commission Orientation. Tempe Learning Center has pulled the film for the time being and Amy Douglass, Administrator for the Tempe Historical Museum has been put in charge of updating the film.

Agenda 8- HRC Strategic Plan Update
Vice Chair Arlene Chin requested an update from the following subcommittees:

A. **Subcommittee for Development of Emerging Issues Report:** No report.
   1. **GLBT Issue** No report.
   2. **Hate Crimes Follow Up –** Provided in Agenda Item 3
B. **Subcommittee for Community Network and Outreach:** Commissioner Linda Ritland reported that the Diversity brochure has been updated and ordered.
C. **Subcommittee on Strategic Oversight:** No report
D. **Supplier Diversity Committee Report:** No report

Agenda Item 9– Diversity Department Update
Staff Rosa Inchausti shared an update on the Diversity Department:
Mayor's Disability Awards will be April 30th 3:00 – 5:00pm at the Center for the Arts.
Regional HRC Meeting will be held on Monday, May 12th, 2008. It will be hosted by the City of Scottsdale.

Ginny Belousek shared that the cities voted to continue the Unity Walk and to keep it in Tempe. The next planning meeting will be held on May 7th at 3:30 in the Library Conference Room. The date is set for February 28th, 2009 and the walk will culminate at 6th Street Park. The committee is also looking at having a possible heritage festival in conjunction with the walk. All commissioners are welcome to attend the planning meetings.

Agenda Item 10 -Current Events Announcements

The commission's next meeting will be June 10th, 2008.

Meeting adjourned at 7:01 P.M.

Prepared by: Brandy Naleski

Reviewed by: Rosa Inchausti

Rosa Inchausti, Diversity Manager