Tempe

Human Relations Commission
MLK Diversity Awards Committee
Meeting Minutes, July 8, 2008

Tempe City Hall, 2nd Floor Conference Room
31 E. Fifth Street, Tempe AZ
5:00pm

In attendance: Florence Boyle, Linda Ritland, Fentress "Trux" Truxon, Patricia Young, Colleen Byron, Ginny Belousek

1. Meeting was called to order at 3:45 p.m.

2. There were no members from the public present for comments.

3. Potential Speakers:
   The subcommittee discussed potential speakers for the MLK Diversity Awards. Several committee members wished to ask Michelle Obama to speak, noting that we are in historic times with this year's Presidential election, as well as the fact that Ms. Obama is a role model for young women.

   Another potential speaker was discussed. It was suggested to ask someone from the Tuskegee Airmen to speak. Trux mentioned that he knows Major Clovis Jones, who is President of the Ragland Chapter of the Tuskegee Airmen. If this option is chosen, Trux also offered to speak with the Buffalo Soldiers to post the colors during the event.

   After much discussion, it was decided that Trux would contact Maj. Jones and Ginny would attempt to contact Michelle Obama.

4. Update from the Mayor's Office
   Some HRC Board members wanted clarification as to the Mayor's comments at the 2008 breakfast, where he indicated that he wanted to make the event casual. Ginny reported that she spoke with the Mayor's office, and that was not his intention. The comment was made in response to the keynote speaker not wearing a tie, so the Mayor took off his tie to make him feel at ease. The Mayor's office reiterated that it is the HRC's event, and they set the tone. The sub-committee agreed that they would like to see the event continue as a professional event.

5. Due to lack of time, the topics of Sponsorship, Award Criteria and Essay Contest were postponed to the next meeting.

6. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p.m.