

**Minutes
Human Relations Commission
January 12, 2010**

**Minutes of the HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION held on TUESDAY, January 12th, 2010
6:00 P.M. at City Hall, 3rd Floor Conference Room, 31 East Fifth Street, Tempe, Arizona.**

(MEMBERS) Present:

Florence Boyle
Colleen Byron
Kathy Dietz
Joseph Mann
Robert Marshak
Frank Morales
Jay Scherotter
Thaddeus Swiecki
Josephine Vega
Patricia Young

(MEMBERS) Absent:

Armando Espinoza
Kade Twist

Diversity Staff Present:

Ginny Belousek
Liz Alvarado

Guests Present:

Jeff Kulaga, Assistant City Manager
Jayson Matthews, Tempe Community Council
Caterina Mena, Tempe Community Council

Meeting convened at 6:15 P.M.

Chair Florence Boyle 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

December 8, 2009 Commission Minutes

Motion made by Commissioner Robert Marshak to ACCEPT minutes.

Second by Commissioner Kathy Dietz.

Minutes APPROVED.

Agenda Item 3 – GSA Update

Commissioner Colleen Byron spoke to the commission regarding a letter sent to the City Manager on December 1, 2009 from the Gay Straight Alliance requesting Diversity training and a letter sent from the City Attorneys Office in support of the training. She explained to the commission the letters have not received a response. She handed out the letter for the commissioners to review. Commissioner Byron suggested the commission discuss drafting a letter to the City Council and the City Manager in support of the GSA's request for the training. She offered to draft the letter if that is the action the commission decides upon and will have it ready for review at the next HRC meeting in February.

Commissioner Kathy Dietz asked who would be conducting the training. Commissioner Byron stated Tempe has an in-house training center that could be trained to conduct the training. Chair Florence Boyle pointed out in the letter an outside resource was mentioned which would result in an additional expense to the City. Commissioner Marshak commented he would like to see the city have the in-house training center conduct the training rather than adding an additional expense to the city budget. Commissioner Byron reminded the commission they are drafting a letter in support of the training and should not include suggestions of who should be conducting the training.

Chair Florence Boyle asked for a show of hands of commissioners in support of the letters and training. All commissioners were in favor of drafting a letter to the City Manager and Council. Assistant City Manager, Jeff Kulaga offered to save the commission a few steps by reporting back to the City Manager's office and checking the status of his response to the letters. Jeff Kulaga will inform the City Manager the commission strongly supports the training and committed to having a response to the commission within 10 days. Chair Florence Boyle thanked Jeff Kulaga and invited him to attend the February HRC meeting to discuss the outcome.

Agenda Item 4 – Diversity Unity Grants Subcommittee

Commissioner Kathy Dietz updated the commission on the Unity Grants sub-committee meeting. She shared the ideas suggested in the meeting to try to preserve the Unity Grants such as hosting a fundraiser, asking for donations and drafting a letter to City Council asking not to eliminate the program. Rosa will be checking on the restrictions to collecting donations with the city attorney.

Jayson Matthews asked to speak to the commission regarding the Unity Grant program being cut from Tempe Community Councils budget. He explained to the commission that TCC has to cut 14% of their budget, because of that many programs such as the Unity Grant program will be cut. Jayson suggested possibly coming up with a creative way to raise the money for the program. Ginny asked if they have ever considered asking for corporate sponsors. She explained the Diversity Department has been very successful in putting on their events with the generosity of their sponsors. The commission agreed to discuss that option further at the next sub-committee meeting. Jayson reminded the commission they have a year to work on ideas for next years awards. Commissioner Byron asked to have this item a standing agenda item for the next year.

Caterina Mena presented the 2010 Unity Grants recommendations. The applications were reviewed by six Tempe Community Council Board members and Human Relations Commissioners. Caterina explained the reason why Tempe High has 2 programs being funded is because the applications do not limit the amount of programs each school can apply for, but it does limit the amount for each program.

The awards were broken down as follows:

- Corona del Sol \$6,085
- Marcos de Niza \$5,445
- McClintock \$6,833
- Tempe \$7,046
- Tempe \$4,591

The school representatives will be invited to the Diversity Awards Brunch to receive their checks.

**Motion made by Commissioner Joseph Mann to ACCEPT the proposals.
Second by Commissioner Colleen Byron.
Proposals APPROVED.**

Agenda Item 5 – WUD Demographics

Assistant City Manager, Jeff Kulaga presented the commission with the demographics for the Water Utilities Department as requested. He handed out a copy of the demographics for the departments of the City of Tempe and also shared the demographics for Tempe's surrounding cities for the Water Utilities Department. The commission was pleased to see that Tempe's demographics were higher than their surrounding cities.

Agenda Item 6 –Diversity Department Update

Staff Ginny Belousek provided the Diversity Department Update

- A. MLK Diversity Awards** - Ginny shared with the commission there are 10 award winners this year. She announced the two adult winners as David Carey and Angelita Reyes; one community group as Desert Palms United Church of Christ; two educational winners as Dr.Eileen Yellin and Kate Glenn; one business winner as Veolia Transportation and four youth winners as Irais Arreola, Keyana Blackmore, Tiffany Dayton and Laura Wilde. Ginny also informed the commission that the keynote speaker Betty Greathouse had to cancel due to an illness and Former Mayor Neil Guliano has accepted the HRC's request to speak in her place.

Agenda Item 7 – Current Events Announcements

Chair Florence Boyle welcomed new commissioner Jay Scherotter to the commission.

Chair Florence Boyle announced Commissioner Patricia Young will be recognized at the City of Mesa's MLK celebration as the Educator of the Year Award.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 P.M.

Prepared by: Liz Alvarado

Reviewed by: Ginny Belousek

Ginny Belousek, Sr. Diversity Specialist