



Minutes Human Relations Commission March 20, 2012

Minutes of the HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION held on Tuesday, March 20, 2012, 6:00 P.M. at City Hall, 3rd Floor Conference Room, 31 East Fifth Street, Tempe, Arizona.

(MEMBERS) Present:

Hannah Auckland
Florence Boyle
Belinda Chiu
Armando Espinoza
Kathy Dietz
Isabel Hochhaus
Peter Hodgson
Frank Morales
Jay Scherotter
Thaddeus Swiecki
Dr. Patricia Young

(MEMBERS) Absent:

Don Calender
Josephine Vega

Diversity Staff Present:

Rosa Inchausti, Diversity Administrator
Dee Hodson, Diversity Office Assistant

Guests Present:

Chuck Hawkins, Mulligan's Manor

Meeting convened at 6:05 P.M.

Commissioner Espinoza called the meeting to order and invited members of the public to address the Commission.

Agenda Item 1 – Public Appearances

Chuck Hawkins addressed the Human Relations Commission to thank the Commissioners for their support of Mulligan's Manor and to invite all interested individuals to visit anytime. Mulligan's Manor is a group home located in Tempe dedicated to LGBTQ youth ranging from 12-17 years old.

Agenda Item 2 – Introduction of New Commissioners, Isabel Hochhaus and Peter Hodgson – Armando Espinoza

Commissioner Espinoza welcomed Commissioner Hochhaus and Commissioner Hodgson followed with introductions by new and current Human Relations Commissioners.

Agenda Item 3 – Consideration of Minutes

January 10, 2012, HRC Commission Minutes

Motion made by Commissioner Dietz to ACCEPT minutes.

Second by Commissioner Boyle.

Minutes APPROVED.

February 14, 2012, HRC Commission Minutes

Motion made by Commissioner Boyle to ACCEPT minutes.

Second by Commissioner Morales.

Minutes APPROVED.

Agenda Item 4 – Utah Compact/Arizona Accord – Armando Espinoza

Commissioner Espinoza began by explaining past HRC discussions regarding the Utah Compact. The Arizona Accord was presented at the February 2012 Regional HRC meeting by the East Valley Patriots for American Values (EVP AV). Commissioner Espinoza passed out copies of the Arizona Accord stating it was very similar to the Utah Compact. Commissioner Espinoza also explained that the Arizona Accord is viewed more favorably versus separate valley cities creating their own individual accords. The floor was opened for discussion and to determine where the Human Relations Commission would like to go with the Arizona Accord.

As Commissioners were given an opportunity to review the Arizona Accord, Commissioner Dietz read a partial list of those that have endorsed the Arizona Accord by signing it at www.azaccord.com. They include the Greater Phoenix Economic Council, the Arizona Interfaith Network, the City of Tolleson, the Mesa Human Relations Advisory Board, the Phoenix Human Relations Commission, Chicanos Por La Causa, Easy Valley Patriots, Sundt Construction, McCarthy Construction and Senator Jerry Lewis among others. Commissioner Dietz explained the purpose of the Arizona Accord is to help voters understand additional ways to discuss and deal with immigration.

Commissioner Scherotter wondered if the Commissioners are in agreement with the content of the Arizona Accord, would the Human Relations Commission's role then be to encourage the City Council to adopt or support (depending on the correct language) the principles in the Arizona Accord and to abide by them within all city departments. Commissioner Dietz asked for Commissioner Scherotter to confirm he was suggesting the Human Relations Commission present the Arizona Accord to the Tempe City Council and ask for their endorsement. Commissioner Scherotter replied yes, depending on the language that should accompany the process.

Commissioner Espinoza asked Rosa about the procedural channels required and if the Human Relations Commission would need legal counsel before presenting the Arizona Accord to the Mayor and City Council. Rosa replied that historically the Human Relations Commission decides what they want to bring forward to the Mayor and City Council but a vote would be necessary for that action. The Human Relations Commission's role is to serve in an advisory position to the Mayor and City Council and could make a recommendation regarding the Arizona Accord accompanied by a cover letter from the Commissioners.

Commissioner Auckland asked if the Phoenix Human Relations Commission had signed the Arizona Accord. Commissioner Dietz replied that the Phoenix Human Relations Commission signed the Arizona Accord with a few changes. Commissioner Auckland wondered if the Human Relations could adopt the Arizona Accord without taking it to the Mayor and City Council if that was their choice. Rosa confirmed a

vote would be required to support the Arizona Accord and then a separate vote would be required to decide if it would be moved forward as a recommendation to the Mayor and City Council. Commissioner Young wondered about the timing with a new Mayor and City Council members taking office in the near future. Commissioner Hochhaus asked if the Chandler and Scottsdale Human Relations Commissions had adopted the Arizona Accord. The consensus was that both Commissions wanted to adopt the Arizona Accord but neither had as of late.

Commissioner Scherotter asked how different the Arizona Accord was from the Human Relations Commission's earlier drafts of Tempe's Guiding Principles. Commissioner Espinoza explained although the language is a bit different there are strong parallels between the two documents.

The commissioners agreed they supported the unifying characteristics of the Arizona Accord rather than varied documents coming from each City. The Arizona Accord represents more of a community orientated and grassroots approach to immigration.

Commissioner Espinoza summarized the changes that would be made to the Arizona Accord before the Human Relations Commission voted on its adoption. Those changes, all contained in the "Economy" paragraph are:

1. Remove "free-market" from "Arizona is best served by a free-market philosophy."
2. Change the word "play" to "make" in "We acknowledge the economic role immigrants play as workers."
3. Change the word "welcoming" to "congenial" and remove "business" from "Arizona's immigration policies must reaffirm our global reputation as a welcoming and business-friendly state."

Motion: Commissioner Scherotter moved to adopt the Arizona Accord (with the above noted changes) as the guiding principles of the City of Tempe's Human Relations Commission.

Second: Commissioner Auckland

Motion Unanimously Approved

Commissioner Espinoza asked for recommendations from the Human Relations Commission now that they have voted for the acceptance of the Arizona Accord. Would the commissioners like the Arizona Accord presented at a City Council meeting? Rosa explained the commissioners do not have to present this at the Council Meeting unless they want the Arizona Accord read at the Council meeting. The Arizona Accord could be sent to the Mayor and City Council introducing it with a cover letter. Commissioner Espinoza suggested he draft a cover letter to be approved at the next Human Relations Commission meeting on April 10, 2012. The consensus was the cover letter should be kept short and to the point stating after careful consideration and extensive research the Human Relations Commission has adopted the Arizona Accord and the commissioners encourage the City Council to do the same. Rosa added aside from recommending the Arizona Accord, this is an opportunity for the Human Relations Commission to reiterate the Commission's values and to demonstrate the role of the Human Relations Commission. Commissioner Espinoza confirmed he would draft a letter to bring to the next Human Relations Commission meeting on April 10, 2012 for the Commissioners approval and to determine what the next step will be for the Arizona Accord.

Agenda Item 5 – Immigration Education Update – Armando Espinoza

Commissioner Espinoza opened the floor for any new immigration discussion points. It was confirmed that Russell Pearce will be running again for the Arizona Senate in a new District. Commissioner Dietz reported that the recent ACLU newsletter had a cover story entitled "Arpaio Ready to Stand Trial."

Agenda Item 6 – HRC Regional Meeting Review – Armando Espinoza

Commissioner Espinoza asked for comments on the well-attended Regional Human Relations meeting held February 14, 2012. Commissioners commended Commissioner Espinoza for leading the meeting so effectively. The consensus was this Regional meeting was extremely productive and the exchange when the Cities update each other is very valuable. Rosa said it confirms how thankful we are to be in Tempe when hearing how other Cities struggle to get things accomplished. Commissioner Espinoza suggested discussing what the combined cities should/could be working on to present a unified voice after discovering what individual cities are working on at the next Regional meeting.

Agenda Item 7 – Diversity Dialogues Wrap Up – Belinda Chiu

A. Diversity Dialogues Participants Recognized at City Council Meeting on April 26, 2012, 7:30 p.m.

Commissioner Chiu provided a written summary of the Teen Diversity Dialogue which ended with a potluck dinner on Wednesday, March 7, 2012. The group of approximately 20 teens' favorite discussion topic was Race, Ethnicity and Culture. A powerful video on Columbine was added this session which led to a great discussion on bullying. The program ended with a successful new closing activity called the "Land of Commitment" where they are asked to commit to an action resulting from the dialogues. Rosa suggested introducing City of Tempe leadership opportunities such as the Mayor's Youth Advisory Commission during the Commitment section, encouraging them to be future civic leaders.

The discussions lead to the timing of the next Teen Diversity Dialogue program. The suggestion was made to add a summer program in addition to the scheduled program in the fall. Commissioners applauded facilitators Commissioner Chiu and Leah Abriani for their wonderful work.

Rosa invited Commissioners to attend the Mayor's Disability Awards held at the Tempe Museum at 3 p.m. on May 3, 2012.

Commissioner Dietz added ACLU has been involved in fighting the removal of the ethnic studies class in Tucson. Visit www.acluaz.org for additional information.

The next HRC Meeting will be April 10, 2012
The next Regional HRC Meeting Hosted by Mesa – May 16, 2012

**Motion made by Commissioner Auckland to adjourn meeting.
Second by Commissioner Dietz.
Meeting adjourned at 7:25 P.M.**

Prepared by: Dee Hodson

Reviewed by: Rosa Inchausti