AGENDA ITEM 6

DATE 11-20-08

Tempe

Minutes
Human Relations Commission
August 12th, 2008

Minutes of the HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION held on TUESDAY, August 12th, 2008 6:00 P.M. at City Hall, 3rd Floor Conference Room, 31 East Fifth Street, Tempe, Arizona.

(MEMBERS) Present:
Arlene Chin
Colleen Byron
Gail Paredes- Ewen
Linda Ritland
Fentress Truxon
Janis Webb
Muhammed Zubair

(MEMBERS) Absent:
Zach Berning
Florence Boyle
Joseph Mann
Irina Pohoata
Patricia Young

City Staff Present:
Rosa Inchausti
Brandy Naleski

Guests Present:
Charles Cobb, Tempe Police Department
Mason Murphy, Disability Commission Chair
Chief Tom Ryff, Tempe Police Department
Srgt. Scott Smith, Tempe Police Department

Meeting convened at 6:16 P.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 –Consideration of Minutes
July 15th, 2008 Strategic Oversight Subcommittee

MOTION: Commissioner Janis Webb made a motion to accept minutes.
SECOND: Commissioner Arlene Chin
DECISION: Motion passed unanimously.

July 8th, 2008 HRC Meeting

MOTION: Commissioner Fentress Truxon made a motion to accept minutes.

SECOND: Commissioner Muhammed Zubair
DECISION: Motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item 3 – Community Forums
Tempe Police Chief Tom Ryff shared an update with the commission in regards to community forums. The idea was originally to get out and meet with the community. Currently, the Mesa Police Department is the only agency in the valley holding community forums. Mesa reports that they are struggling to get the community to participate.

At this time, Chief Ryff is not ready to move forward with having community forums without a purpose for them. There are several mechanisms in place currently for community members to interact with the Police Department, including presence at neighborhood meetings, partnerships and involvement with numerous community organizations. There is a lot of outreach going on that does not fall under the umbrella of community forums. Chief Ryff would like input from the commission about revisiting community forms if the need arises.

Commissioner Truxon shared that Tempe is a partner of the Healing Racism Series, in addition to other cities and organizations. Chair Byron sits on the Strategic Planning committee for the Tempe Community Council and they are working on a community forum about alcohol prevention for youth and invited the Police Department to get involved with that forum. Commissioner Zubair discussed a concern in the Muslim community with young men lacking a paternal presence in their lives; the community is talking with the Vice-Principal at Marcos about doing something through the school.

Agenda Item 4 – Cab Company Complaints
Srgt. Scott Smith briefed the commission about a complaint made by a taxicab driver regarding his company being cited when other cab companies were not. The issue was that current taxi zones on Mill Ave had recently been rezoned. There was an educational period of a few weeks before the enforcing began the weekend of July 19th. The sergeant of the bike squad went to the court reviewed all citations and found the claims to be unfounded.

Agenda Item 5 – Mason Murphy, Disability Commission Chair
Mason Murphy was recently elected the new chair of the Commission on Disability Concerns. Mason shared with the HRC the mission and purpose of the Disability Commission. He would like to be more proactive in addressing the concerns of the disabled community. He also shared the different subcommittees and their focus. Mason shared with the commission his personal story about his disability. Mason works at ASU as a program coordinator for international students.

Commissioner Paredes-Ewen thanked Mason for sharing the information with the HRC and encouraged him to please let the commission know they can help or partner together in the future.

Agenda Item 6 – Boards/Commission Orientation Script
Rosa Inchausti shared that Amy Douglass from the Museum has drafted changes to the script for the Boards/Commission Orientation video. Rosa suggested that all commissioners review the changes and discuss as a group at the September meeting. Commissioner Truxon commented that he reviewed them and he is impressed with the changes.

Agenda Item 7- Diversity Parks Discussion
Due to the fact that Commissioner Boyle requested for this item to be agendized and she was unable to attend the meeting, it was agreed to table this item until the September meeting.

Agenda Item 8 – Regional HRC Meeting
The Regional HRC Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 13th, 2008. This meeting is being hosted by Tempe and will be held in the Tempe Public Library Program Room.

Agenda 9- HRC Strategic Plan Update
Chair Colleen Byron requested an update from the following subcommittees:

A. **Subcommittee for Development of Emerging Issues Report:**
   1. GLBT Issue – Commissioner Webb was able to attend the Gay/Straight Alliance meeting held on July 30th. The GSA is doing a lot of wonderful things in regards to community involvement; adopt a street, Habitat for Humanity. It all sounds very encouraging. There was a recent issue involving the RK Catering Co. and the recent ECHO awards dinner. Rosa Inchausti shared the situation with the commission. Commissioners were in agreement and grateful that the city resolved the issue as it did.
   2. Hate Crimes Follow Up – None
B. **Subcommittee for Community Network and Outreach:** none
C. **Subcommittee on Strategic Oversight:** Commissioner Paredes-Ewen reported that the subcommittee met on July 15th, Chair Byron has drafted a vision for the commission. It was decided by the subcommittee that the commission needs to come together to work on forming goals. A retreat was suggested. City staff will follow up on scheduling a retreat.
D. **Supplier Diversity Committee Report:** none

Agenda Item 10– Diversity Department Update
Staff Rosa Inchausti shared an update on the Diversity Department:
Interviews for the Diversity Liasion for the Police Department are scheduled for September 12th. There were 53 applicants, 13 of which did not meet the minimum qualifications. They will be interviewing 8 individuals.
The City of Tempe hosted a mixer for the United Latino Business Coalition on July 30th at the Library Program Room. Approximately 25 people attended and city staff was present from our Purchasing Division and Engineering Division to talk to those in attendance about doing business with the City of Tempe.

Agenda Item 11-Current Events Announcements
Commissioner Ritland shared that the next Unity Walk meeting will be Wednesday, August 13th at the Library, right before the Regional HRC meeting.

Commissioner Truxon attended a meeting for the Veterans Committee to place a memorial at the Town Lake.

The commission's next meeting will be September 9th, 2008.

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 P.M.

Prepared by: Brandy Naleski

Reviewed by: Rosa Inchausti

Rosa Inchausti, Diversity Manager