

**Minutes
Human Relations Commission
February 8, 2011**

**Minutes of the HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION held on Tuesday, February 8, 2011,
6:00 P.M. at City Hall, 3rd Floor Conference Room, 31 East Fifth Street, Tempe, Arizona.**

(MEMBERS) Present:

Florence Boyle
Belinda Chiu
Kathy Dietz
Armando Espinoza
Joseph Mann
Frank Morales
Jay Scherotter
Josephine Vega
Dr. Patricia Young

(MEMBERS) Absent:

Elizabeth Heydarian
Thaddeus Swiecki
Kade Twist

Diversity Staff Present:

Rosa Inchausti, Diversity Administrator
Dee Hodson, Diversity Office Assistant

Guests Present:

none

Meeting convened at 6:03 P.M.

Commissioner Young 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

January 11, 2011, HRC Commission Minutes

Motion made by Commissioner Scherotter to ACCEPT minutes.

Second by Commissioner Espinoza.

Minutes APPROVED.

January 27, 2011, Teen Diversity Dialogue Subcommittee Minutes

Motion made by Commissioner Espinoza to ACCEPT minutes.

Second by Commissioner Morales.

Minutes APPROVED.

Agenda Item 3 – MLK Diversity Awards Feedback – Dr. Patricia Young

Commissioner Young began by asking what the final attendance was for the MLK Brunch. Rosa responded we had approximately 530 attendees. Commissioner Young said the brunch had a youthful feel although it had a wide representation overall. Commissioner Young opened the floor for comments or recommendations. Commissioner Dietz said that Commissioner Young did a great job as the emcee and she was a great representative of the HRC. Commissioner Mann stated that he enjoyed the speaker, Dr. Greathouse, and especially the timeline she presented. Commissioner Boyle would like to see MLK feedback left on the agenda for future meetings. Commissioner Scherotter said the room had great energy from the very beginning due to the drum band and the slides from past events. Commissioner Scherotter added that Ginny Belousek did a wonderful job and makes the brunch seem effortless. Commissioner Vega agreed that the drum band showcased high school students well and would like to have them again next year. Commissioner Vega added that she liked the \$5.00 per person fee. Commissioner Young wondered if it could be increased to \$10.00 or higher next year. Commissioner Espinoza asked what the monies were used for. Rosa confirmed that the money went towards the cost of the breakfast but does not come close to covering the event costs. Commissioner Dietz asked if the program could include donation information for the groups involved. Commissioner Young said that Mayor Hallman had mentioned the tax credit option for the high schools but it might be good to include additional donation options in the program. Commissioner Scherotter inquired about any guaranteed sponsorship agreements concerning Veolia's future involvement. Rosa replied that the amount was not guaranteed but that Veolia has continued to be a great partner. Rosa said they would begin meeting with Veolia in March regarding next Year's MLK Brunch. Commissioner Scherotter suggested exploring multiple sponsorships in the future.

Commissioner Young felt that the picture taking process could be improved. Commissioner Espinoza agreed the picture taking clogged up the flow. Commissioner Young thanked Commissioner Morales for sharing the duties of announcing award recipients. Commissioner Young said the process worked well and that involving two people should be repeated next year.

Commissioner Young reported that the MLK Brunch was shown on Channel 11 and it is also posted on the Diversity website. Commissioner Boyle inquired about watching the DVD as a group. Commissioner Young agreed it would be a great idea for the subcommittee to view the DVD for next year's planning. Commissioner Young added that it would be good to have a bigger subcommittee next year so that the award decisions were not left to two or three people. Commissioner Boyle offered a rotation system as a solution so that everyone would end up being involved. Commissioner Young acknowledged that everyone has a passion for certain subcommittees and that serving on a different committee is another way for commissioners to be active in various ways.

Agenda Item 4 – Teen Diversity Dialogue Subcommittee Update – Kathy Dietz

Commissioner Dietz reported that the Teen Diversity Dialogue subcommittee had met just before this evening's HRC meeting. Commissioner Dietz said that the subcommittee has been divided into Task Forces. Commissioner Espinoza, who is heading up the Development and Orientation Task Force, invited Jennifer Rauhouse to speak at the subcommittee meeting. Ms. Rauhouse was the recipient of a Diveristy MLK Award and brought one of her Stand and Serve students, Gabby, to the meeting. Ms. Rauhouse reported on her programs and discussed a possible partnership. Commissioner Espinoza added that Ms. Rauhouse confirmed that the Teen Diversity Dialogue program parallels the working model she currently works with. Commissioner Dietz said their next meeting would be at 5 p.m. on March 8th.

Kathy said that Commissioner Scherotter reported on a logistical meeting he had with Rosa. That meeting determined four areas that need to be decided; dates and times, who the facilitators will be, participants, and applications required along with marketing. Ms. Rauhouse suggested ten participants per group, using sophomore and juniors. Commissioner Scherotter said that staff is ready to support the decisions made by the subcommittee. Commissioner Dietz asked if the program could go ahead and Rosa replied yes. Commissioner Scherotter added that if there is to be a formal group by this August, marketing and applications will need to be put in motion by March. Rosa confirmed with Commissioner Dietz that once the marketing content comes from the subcommittee, our graphic designer would be involved.

Commissioner Dietz and Commissioner Young will be meeting with the Superintendent of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment of TUHSD, Derek Hoffland, on February 16th to discuss the program's intent and logistics.

Commissioner Morales reported on his Risk Management Task Force. Commissioner Morales would like to incorporate Ms. Rauhouse's permission slip with a Chandler permission slip he currently has. Commissioner Morales said that the subcommittee needs to get further along before he can approach risk management or an attorney. Commissioner Scherotter reported that the current Diversity Dialogue application for adults is a great place to start. Commissioner Scherotter added that a few changes would need to be made for teens, including a release which the staff would need to review and approve.

Commissioner Young concluded that what started as a spark and interest to have a Diversity Dialogue for teens has evolved to a real framework. Commissioner Young said the subcommittee should be very proud of getting the program this far along and thanked Commissioner Dietz for being a wonderful Chair.

Agenda Item 5 – Immigration Update – Armando Espinoza

Commissioner Espinoza reported on the shifting populations reflected in the new census numbers. The Pew Hispanic Center reported that for the first time in twenty years there has not been an increase in undocumented immigrants in the United States.

Commissioner Espinoza recently attended the Mesa Association of Hispanic Citizens' annual retreat in which Mr. Randy Parra spoke. Mr. Parra is starting a new group called Citizens for a Better Arizona. Commissioner Espinoza shared a portion of Mr. Parra's presentation regarding recalling Senator Pearce. Mr. Parra does not want the recall to be seen as an attack of the person but rather from the platform that he does not represent his constituents.

Mr. Parra also spoke of the "Utah Compact" which is a declaration of five principles to guide Utah's immigration discussion. The principles include federal solutions, law enforcement, families, economy and a free society. The consensus was that Utah's Compact sounded very positive and impressive.

Commissioner Scherotter asked who the author of the Utah Compact is. Commissioner Espinoza responded that he was not positive but he knew the Mormon Church had been one of the principles authors and supporters of the Utah's Compact. Mr. Parra's group is looking at a way to translate the Utah's Compact to Arizona.

Commissioner Espinoza announced a fundraiser by the "One In Ten" group. They will be having their annual Spring Banquet called "Fresh" on Sunday, February 20, 2011 at the Sheraton Phoenix Downtown Hotel which is sold out.

Agenda Item 6 – Diversity Department Update – Rosa Inchausti

Rosa asked for Commissioner's feedback on the Unity Walk held February 5, 2011. Rosa said the transportation was an issue and would be improved for next year. Rosa reported that we had a great turn out especially from the youth this year. Rosa added that it would be great to have more involvement from the other cities. Commissioner Young said her goal is to increase Mesa's participation for next year. Commissioner Young recommended we advertise earlier in order to get the high schools involved as they need additional time to schedule bus transportation. Commissioner Young said we should also work through the Mesa HRC. Commissioner Young wondered if a contest or a competition between the high schools might be effective. Commissioner Espinoza thought the Unity Walk would make a good agenda item to discuss at the Regional HRC meeting and get them involved as ambassadors for their particular cities. Commissioner Young suggested trying to obtain entertainment from different cities and get more representation from the East Valley. Commissioner Chiu and Commissioner Morales agreed that it was nice to have the marching band lead the walk. Commissioner Young said she thought the shorter walk worked well this year. Commissioner Espinoza asked if we have a scrap books for different events. Rosa explained that Ginny creates a binder for each year's events.

Agenda Item 7 – Current Event Announcements

A. Diversity Dialogues, January 19, 2011 – March 2, 2011, 6-7:30 p.m.

Rosa reported that the Diversity Dialogues are on going and being well attended.

B. Who's Your Neighbor – April 6, 2011

Rosa said the next Who's Your Neighbor topic will be the legalization process of immigration. An attorney will be present to discuss the process. Commissioner Espinoza has a suggestion for an attorney. Rosa explained that Ginny had a contact but would let her know that Commissioner Espinoza has an attorney in mind. Rosa explained that the Who's Your Neighbor programs take place at noon in Council Chambers with desert provided. Attendees are asked to bring a brown bag lunch.

Motion: Commissioner Mann moved to adjourn the meeting

Second: Commissioner Espinoza

Meeting adjourned at 6:55 P.M.

Prepared by: Dee Hodson

Reviewed by: Rosa Inchausti