



Minutes REGIONAL Human Relations Commission February 14, 2012

Minutes of the HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION held on Tuesday, February 14 2012, 6:00 P.M. at the Transit Bldg, 2rd Floor Don Cassano Room, 200 East Fifth Street, Tempe, Arizona.

Present:

Hannah Auckland, Tempe HRC
Florence Boyle, Tempe HRC
Frank Morales, Tempe HRC
Belinda Chiu, Tempe HRC
Armando Espinoza, Tempe HRC
Thaddeus Swiecki, Tempe HRC
Kathy Dietz, Tempe HRC
Rosa Inchausti, City of Tempe
Dee Hodson, City of Tempe
Mary Poindexter, Chandler HRC
Cynthia Hardy, Chandler HRC
Kay McDonald, Chandler HRC
Brad Singer, Chandler HRC
Leah Powell, City of Chandler
Victor Hardy, Chandler
Frank Johnson, Mesa HRC
Denise Heap, Mesa HRC
Deanna Cantrell, Mesa HRC
Diane D'Angelo, Phoenix HRC
Bob Rosenberg, Phoenix HRC
Maria Frucciano, Phoenix HRC
Laurie Provost, Phoenix, HRC
Dr. Joel Martin, Scottsdale HRC
Dr. Velicia McMillan, City of Scottsdale
Dan Martinez, East Valley Patriots for American Values
Saul Solis, East Valley Patriots for American Values
Brian Barabe, East Valley Patriots for American Values
Raquel Leyva, East Valley Patriots for American Values
Carolyn O'Connor, East Valley Patriots for American Values
Janet Lily, Citizens for Better Arizona
Edmund Hubbard, ASU Student, State Press
Norma Garcia-Torres, Chandler

Meeting convened at 6:00 P.M.

Commissioner Espinoza called the meeting to order and introduced Tempe Mayor Hallman. Mayor Hallman welcomed the Regional Commissioners and shared some of Tempe's rich diverse history.

Commissioner Espinoza invited members of the public to address the Commission.

Agenda Item 1 – Public Appearances

None

Agenda Item 2 – Utah Compact / Arizona Accord

Dan Martinez with the East Valley Patriots for American Values (EVPAV) explained the group is a faith based, grassroots, nonpartisan organization which has been advocating for the adoption of the Utah Compact/Arizona Accord since the fall of 2010. The group supports civil conversations on the topic of immigration. EVPAV thinks the wide spread adoption of the Arizona Accord will help to positively move Arizona forward in resolving Arizona's immigration dilemma. Saul Solis with EVPAV explained that the Arizona Accord is a state wide movement. Mr. Solis brought copies of the Arizona Accord including a list of Original Endorsing Organizations and Businesses and invited attendees to sign the Arizona Accord at www.azaccord.com.

Commissioner Espinoza opened the floor to questions. Commissioner McDonald, Chair of the Chandler HRC asked what EVPAV hopes to accomplish by having the Arizona Accord adopted across the state. Mr. Martinez explained that wide spread support would send a strong message to Arizona's legislature that Arizona citizens will not support anti-immigration legislature. Mr. Solis added the intended impact is also to have civil discussions finding positive solutions versus the current negative dialogue. Mr. Solis said it was too early to correctly judge the impact considering the Arizona Accord was made available for signatures on January 24, 2012.

Commissioner Martin with the Scottsdale HRC, reported Scottsdale HRC's intent is to recommend the Arizona Accord be adopted by the Scottsdale City Council.

Commissioner Singer with the Chandler HRC, wondered if the intent of taking a stand on the Arizona Accord necessarily fosters productive conversation. Mr. Martinez replied the Arizona Accord includes broad guiding principles aiding in respectful dialogue, not necessarily offering specific solutions. EVPAV wants to begin the process while recognizing there will be some give and take involved along the way.

Mr. Martinez was asked to share how Utah was affected after the Utah Compact was adopted. Mr. Martinez responded that due to a broad acceptance by different groups the Utah Compact assisted Utah in broadening its view on immigration. Mr. Solis added the difference between Arizona and Utah is the Utah Compact was adopted *before* legislation versus the Arizona Accord coming *after* SB1070.

Commissioner Espinoza, Tempe HRC Chair, reported that the Tempe HRC has been researching options and discussing verbiage for a Tempe Compact before making final recommendations to the Tempe City Council.

Commissioner D'Angelo, Phoenix HRC Chair, reported the Phoenix HRC has changed some wording of the Arizona Accord with the intent of taking their Phoenix Accord to the Phoenix City Council. Commissioner Singer wondered about the addition of "business owners" to the ECONOMY section of the Arizona Accord after; We acknowledge the economic role immigrants play as workers, taxpayers and *business owners*.

Agenda Item 3 – City of Phoenix Resolution Regarding Maricopa County Sherriff's Office

Commissioner D'Angelo began by referencing copies of the Resolution Calling for New Leadership at Maricopa County Sherriff's Office and offering a brief history of what brought the Phoenix HRC to create the resolution. Commissioner D'Angelo reported after heated discussions between Phoenix HRC, the Phoenix City Manager and the Equal Opportunity Department, the item was placed on the HRC's Agenda with the intention of creating a resolution. Once the resolution wording had been decided a special meeting was called for a vote. The resolution was adopted by all Phoenix Commissioners except for one abstention.

The discussion following Commissioner D'Angelo's explanation of the resolution pointed out that City Councils and elected officials such as Sherriff Arpaio, serve at the pleasure of the citizens. Citizens including Commissioners should not be afraid to speak out especially if issues become a matter of conscience. As Sherriff Arpaio continues to be re-elected, his leadership becomes a will of the majority of voting citizens. Commissioner D'Angelo added that civil rights cannot be legislated. The consensus is that all citizens need to voice their opinion by voting in addition to advocating Arizona via social media outlets.

Agenda Item 4 – City Exchange & Updates

Commissioner Dietz with the Tempe HRC reported on Tempe's current Diversity Dialogue program referencing copies of the application shared with the group. Commissioner Dietz reported the program now includes a teen group that has been well received and publicized. Commissioner Chiu with Tempe's HRC is one of the program's facilitators adding that the Teen group has doubled in size from the original pilot program. There are 20 teens currently participating in the program representing a variety of Tempe High Schools. Commissioner Dietz offered to share the program guidelines with anyone interested in starting their own Diversity Dialogue program. Rosa Inchausti, Tempe Diversity Manger, reported the increased teen participation tied in with Tempe HRC's focus on youth and giving future leaders the tools they will need to stand up for civil rights. Dr. Velicia McMillan commended Tempe's work and said that although education is crucial, providing access for underrepresented populations is also essential especially for youth.

Commissioner Espinoza reported on Tempe's recent MLK Brunch with 500 participants. A majority of this year's MLK program, recognized Tempe's youth and their community contributions.

Commissioner Heap, Vice Chair of Mesa HRC, reported they are unable to mention the Mesa Compact at Mesa HRC meetings. Mesa will be conducting a one day, eight hour education program focusing on diversity basics. Mesa is also working on PTSD issues with police officers being denied benefits by the Disability Board. Mesa HRC has been asked by the Mesa Police Association to look into the costs involved in offering domestic partner benefits to police officers. Commissioner Heap also reported that several Mesa organizations including Mesa's HRC will be marching in the Gay Pride Parade for the first time and invited everyone to join them. Commissioner Heap introduced Commissioner Johnson who is the Co-Chair of Mesa's Issues, Research and Project Committee. Commissioner Heap ended by sharing Mesa's HRC participation in their MLK Parade.

Commissioner McDonald from Chandler's HRC reported the Commissioners continue to be public relations ambassadors and recently hosted their signature Multicultural Festival in January. The Multicultural Festival included 1,100 youth showcasing talents in the Creative Expression Competition. Chandler HRC participated in the Unity Walk and continues to support Chandler youth through the program, Be the Change. Commissioner McDonald has been attempting to get the Utah compact on Chandler's HRC agenda. Leah Powell described the National Anne Frank exhibit currently visiting Chandler's East Valley Jewish Community Center through March 5, 2012 which includes special presentations for educators, law enforcement personnel and judicial officers.

Dr. Martin, with Scottsdale HRC, reported they recently designed and created a new informative brochure. Scottsdale HRC is conducting a successful Cross Communication Series in conjunction with the Scottsdale Public Library. Dr. Martin added Scottsdale had their MLK celebration dinner with speaker, John Quinones. Scottsdale held their La Gran Fiesta with over 6,000 participants. Scottsdale HRC also participated in the Unity Walk.

Dr. Martin said Scottsdale HRC wanted to ask Commissioners how they outreach for new commissioners. It was suggested outreach ideas by placed on the next Regional HRC Agenda hosted by Mesa. Dr. Martin also inquired about switching the Unity Walk to another day that does not conflict with the Waste Management Open.

Commissioner Provost, with Phoenix HRC shared the Healing Racism program held at ASU entitled Vincent Who? Phoenix also has monthly brown bag luncheons on the third Friday of each month.

Agenda Item 5 – Meeting Evaluation & Next Meeting Topic

Rosa will notify Ruth Giese with the Mesa HRC, regarding the request to put outreach ideas on the agenda for the next Regional HRC meeting.

Agenda Item 6 – Closing Comments & Adjournment

Commissioner Dietz with Tempe's HRC noted that we are celebrating Arizona's 100th birthday today and how interesting it is to know that Arizona's first Governor Hunt was a populist.

Commissioner Morales with Tempe's HRC emphasized the importance of getting people to vote and to communicate with their legislators. A different outcome will not be accomplished by doing the same thing.

Commissioner Rosenberg with Phoenix's HRC shared some Arizona history involving the creation of Arizona's constitution as well as Arizona's connection with the 1954 case of Brown vs. Board of Education.

Commissioner Poindexter with Chandler's HRC summarized that it will be people's passion that draws in the community and facilitates an open dialogue.

Agenda Item 7 – Next Regional Meeting hosted by Mesa

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 P.M.

Prepared by: Dee Hodson

Reviewed by: Rosa Inchausti

Rosa Inchausti, Diversity Administrator