

Minutes

Human Relations Commission

August 8, 2023

Minutes of the HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION held on Tuesday, August 8, 2023, 6:00 p.m., held both In-Person & Virtually: Tempe Public Library 2nd Floor Conference Room, 3500 South Rural Road, Tempe, AZ 85282 & Microsoft Teams at the following link: [Join Microsoft Teams Meeting](#) or by telephone: (480) 498-8745, United States, Phoenix (Toll), Conference ID: 762 995 762#

(MEMBERS) Present:

Hugo Tapia, Chair
Peggy Simmons, Vice-Chair
Tom Brown
Pamela Chan
Melissa Farling
Rabbanni FurQuaan
Candyce Lindsay
Kate Vawter

(MEMBERS) Absent:

William Ortega
David Reynolds

City Staff Present:

Dr. Velicia McMillan Humes, Chief Diversity Officer
Elena Hale, Cultural Programs & Public Education Coordinator
Jamie Rodriguez, Executive Assistant to CMO

Guests

Chief Kenneth McCoy

Call to Order

Chair Tapia called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

Agenda Item 1 – Public Appearances

None

Agenda Item 2 – Consideration of Minutes: HRC – April 11, 2023; May 13, 2023 & June 13, 2023

Recommendation to correct voting records of the June meeting minutes made by Commissioner Rojas. Adjustment was made.

Unified motion to approve April 11, 2023; May 13, 2023 & June 13, 2023; Commissioner Chan, Second by Commissioner Rojas. Motion passed on a 7-0 vote. Ayes: Chair Tapia and Commissioners Tom Brown, Pamela Chan, Melissa Farling, Candyce Lindsay, Peggy Simmons and Joe Rojas. Nays: None. Absent: Commissioner: Kate Vawter (arrived late).

Agenda Item 3 – Unity Grant Presentation

TABLED

Agenda Item 4 – Police Chief Introduction

Chair Tapia introduced Chief McCoy to the Commissioners and welcomed him to the meeting. Chief McCoy shared his professional background, highlighting his 27 years in Alaska, and as a Chief Diversity Officer for 1.5 years. Chief McCoy spoke on his work with community policing, and it's efficacy within his community.

Chair Tapia opened the floor to questions for Chief McCoy. Commissioner Chan asked about the crime issues within Tempe compared to other cities. The Chief responded that the reported data may disconnect with the true concerns of the community and emphasized the importance of the role within community policing. Commissioner FurQuann asked about the retention of officers within the City of Tempe, and what was in place to promote officers from within. Chief McCoy responded that most law enforcement agencies are struggling with retention; some may be offering incentives or bonuses which may contribute to attrition within the City of Tempe. Vice-Chair Simmons voiced concerns for the unhoused community within Tempe's parks, and asked about the park ranger programs future involvement with this endeavor. Chief McCoy notified attendees that the park ranger program will live under Community Services, and detailed what their current scope of work will be. Further discussion ensued.

Agenda Item 5 – 2050 Committee Update

Nothing to report.

Agenda Item 6 – Announcements

- August 21st: Source of Income Public Feedback Forum (date has since changed to September 18).
- City of Tempe is proposing to recognize Indigenous People's Day as a city holiday.
- MLK Committee
 - o A couple of names for speakers are being floated.
 - o Most likely will take place at DoubleTree this coming year due to feedback of accessibility concerns and parking concerns.

Agenda Item 7 – Proposed Future Agenda Items

Commissioners indicated an interest in the following items for the September 12, 2023 meeting:

- Affordable housing and the voucher process
- Crown Act
- Equity Study, Parks & Recreation

Agenda Item 8 – Discussion of Upcoming Meeting Date – September 12, 2023

- Commissioner Vawter offered to time keep, each presenter shall be allotted 20 minutes per presentation.
 - o Chair Tapia mentioned he had developed a time-keeping structure and would send it on to Dr. Humes.

Motion made by Commissioner Vawter to adjourn the meeting
Second by Vice-Chair Simmons
Meeting adjourned at 7:54 p.m.

Prepared by: Elena Hale

Reviewed by: Velicia McMillan Humes