

Minutes

Human Relations Commission

April 9, 2024

Minutes of the HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION held on Tuesday, April 9, 2024, 6:00 – 8:00 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:

Rabbanni FurQaan, Chair
Hugo Tapia
Tom Brown
Melissa Farling
Peggie Simmons
Richard Sederstrom
Heather Cimino-Lance

(MEMBERS) Absent:

Kate Vawter
Pamela Chan
Candyce Lindsay
Karyn Lathan

City Staff Present:

Dr. Velicia McMillan Humes, Chief Diversity Officer

Guests

Call to Order

Chair FurQaan called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

Agenda Item 1 – Public Appearances

None

Agenda Item 2 – Approval of Minutes: HRC – March 13, 2024

Commissioner Sederstrom made a motion to approve the March 13, 2024 minutes. Commissioner Brown seconded. Approved unanimously.

Correction: Cimino-Lance was not present.

Agenda Item 3 – Ramadan Dinner: Discussion & Feedback

Commissioners Cimino-Lance and FurQaan shared positive impressions of the event. Commissioner FurQaan expressed gratitude for the history and background of the event as it was helpful to newcomers. Commissioner Tapia asked what the commission could do to show appreciation to the community. Commissioner FurQaan suggested a thank-you letter and offered to lead this process for the HRC. Commissioner Cimino-Lance suggested someone be designated to greet people. Dr. Humes suggested that HRC take on this role, to welcome people into the event.

Agenda Item 4 – Dolores Huerta Scholarship: Discussion & Feedback

Commissioners shared positive feedback regarding the Neighborhood event. Chicanos Por La Causa was grateful for the continued partnership. Commissioner Simmons inquired about potentially expanding revenue streams for increased scholarship awards.

Agenda Item 5 – Unity Grant: Review of Applications, Discussion, Voting On Submissions

Commissioner Tapia gave a historical background of the Unity Grant and its impact within the school system. Commissioners reviewed the submitted proposal by Ron Denne. Commissioner Farling inquired about additional scholarships being awarded. Dr. Humes told the commission she would notify them if any additional applications were received and suggested a subcommittee to review and approve the potential additional applications. Commissioners Sederstrom, FurQaan, and Farling volunteered.

Agenda Item 6 – Announcements

- Commissioner Brown attended the Mayors All Abilities Awards and expressed how important it is to cross-collaborate with other commissions. Commissioner FurQaan agreed, and mentioned that the commission will have a future meeting with TACC, in May. Dr. Humes said she will speak with various staff members to discuss this further.
- Commissioner Tapia recommended a field trip for the commission to the parks where community feeds take place. Commissioner FurQaan volunteered to send information out to the commission about future community feeds. Commissioner FurQaan recommended potentially inviting Tim Burch to a future meeting after commissioners gather information independently.
- Commissioner Simmons notified the commission about the fund being raised for the Buffalo Soldiers. So far, \$500,000 has been raised.
- Commissioner FurQaan announced that the Tempe Community Council Don Carlos Humanitarian Awards nominations are now open and encouraged the group to nominate people for this award.
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Agenda Item 7 – Proposed Future Agenda Items

- Commissioner FurQaan suggested a meeting with Tim Burch to discuss community feeds once commissioners do their own independent study of the current services offered within the city.
- Commissioner Cimino-Lance suggested the Human Library.
- Commissioner Tapia asked that Dr. Humes follow up on the Unity Grant.

**Motion made by Commissioner Tapia to adjourn the meeting.
Second by Commissioner Cimino-Lance.
Meeting adjourned at 7:45 PM.**