

Minutes Human Relations Commission December 8, 2015

Minutes of the HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION held on Tuesday, December 8, 2015, 6:00 p.m., at City Hall, 3rd Floor Conference Room, 31 E. Fifth Street, Tempe, Arizona.

(MEMBERS) Present:

Hannah Aukland
Don Calender
Dino Castelli
Belinda Chiu
Armando Espinoza
Isabel Hochhaus
Chris Houk
Ira King, Jr.
Jeanne Powers
Jay Scherotter

(MEMBERS) Absent:

City Staff Present:

Rosa Inchausti, Diversity Director
Ginny Belousek, Diversity Specialist

Meeting convened at 6:00 p.m.

Chair Espinoza called the meeting to order and invited commissioners to help themselves to food. Chair Espinoza indicated that the meeting will take place during dinner.

Agenda Item 1 – Public Appearances

There were no public appearances

Agenda Item 2 – Consideration of Minutes: HRC – November 10, 2015 (Motion Required)

Commissioner Castelli had a question about page 2, paragraph 2 regarding drones. The minutes read, “Commissioner King shared an example of drone use in Missouri, saying drone use could result in damage of personal property.” Commissioner Castelli said that damage to personal property wasn’t the concern. He requested clarification from Commissioner King. Chair Espinoza asked for a motion first, he would then open the item up for discussion.

MOTION: Commissioner Scherotter moved to ACCEPT the minutes

Commissioner King said he doesn't recall stating damage to personal property. He heard this story on the radio about a person who was concerned about personal privacy with drones. This person had asked his neighbor to not fly the drones over his house, and the neighbor did, so the he shot the drone down. A person could, in an emotional reaction, do something harmful.

Minutes amended to read: Commissioner King shared an example of drone use in Missouri, saying drone use could result in strong emotional reactions over concerns for invasion of privacy.

SECOND: Commissioner Calender, as amended
DECISION: Minutes unanimously APPROVED

Agenda Item 3 – Drone Impact – Dino Castelli

Commissioner Castelli stated that he brought this issue forward at the last meeting because he sees this as a potential quality of life issue for the community, specifically regarding privacy. He wished to present it to see what everyone's opinion is regarding this topic. He has heard that others think this should be a state or federal issue, and perhaps an issue for a different commission such as the Aviation Commission. Commissioner Castelli said he heard the question asked about this topic, "is this quality of life issue in our charge as a commission?" Commissioner Castelli stated that even if this is another commission's issue, does that keep the HRC from having an opinion on this topic? He asked, "Isn't this part of our responsibility to identify issues that we think may be issues to this community that we have been asked to be advisors on? The FAA will be looking at other issues such as safety, which is different from what my concerns are with drones." He then asked Rosa what she found out from City Council regarding this topic.

Rosa reported that Councilmember Navarro formed a Council of the Whole Committee in August, 2015 – the Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Subcommittee (UAV). This committee is working with the City of Phoenix to look at what the FAA will be regulating and what power the cities will have in imposing other stricter regulations. Phoenix will be taking the lead with this since they have the airport. Tempe's lobbyist, Marge Zylla, is following the Phoenix subcommittee and reporting back to our councilmembers. Rosa shared some notes from the August UAV subcommittee meeting: "The FAA has created guidelines, but local communities have the option to further restrict their use. The challenge is to regulate recreational drones while preserving commercial and city uses for public safety and public works. Phoenix and Paradise Valley have draft ordinances regulating drones flying in their respective cities. In PV they propose to ban drones unless you obtain a one-day special use permit. In Phoenix they propose a ban over private property without permission. Questions for Tempe are, "what should city policy be for department uses of drones? Can the city establish no-fly zones on city property or right-of-ways? Can the city prohibit flights during special events? How can we enforce the right to privacy when a drone records video or photos of neighbors?" Rosa is happy to report back to the commission, but at this point the City is already looking at and monitoring this topic.

Commissioner Scherotter asked Rosa who is answering those questions for Tempe? Rosa responded that those are questions that the subcommittee would like to have answered, but

they are waiting for Phoenix to identify some things with the FAA. Commissioner Scherotter asked about the timetable, and Rosa said the subcommittee was aiming for September, but that hasn't happened yet. Commissioner Houk asked if interested people, such as Commissioner Castelli, can attend these subcommittee meetings and if there is a schedule? Rosa responded, yes, and she will alert the Commissioners when the next meeting is scheduled. She also stated that you can individually contact the Councilmember now to voice your concerns, but make it clear that you are not speaking on behalf of the commission.

Commissioner Castelli stated that it seems that the City is waiting for action from somebody else, and he doesn't see that as a good thing. It is better to be able to share your opinion up front rather than have to change something later. Rosa responded that the City is waiting for the FAA to come out with their standards in 2017. If Tempe creates a policy or an ordinance the FAA may supersede it. Commissioner Castelli reiterated that he thinks it is valuable for the City to state their opinion to show our concerns about what is important to our city. Rosa said the city has done that with Councilmember Navarro's creation of the UAV subcommittee group.

Commissioner Hochhaus stated that while this is an important issue, she is not sure this is the appropriate commission to address these concerns. She sees this as a public safety issue and is not sure if the HRC is in the best position to give recommendations from a public safety standpoint. Chair Espinoza asked Commissioner Castelli how he would like the commission to address this issue. Commissioner Castelli responded that he believes there are two issues with drones: 1) public safety issues that should be addressed by other committees, and 2) quality of life issues, which fall under the purview of the HRC. He would like the commission to issue a statement to the City Council that we believe there is a concern. Chair Espinoza added that in this statement we should include that we are pleased that they are taking positive action in addressing this issue.

Chair Espinoza said that past practice when the HRC has issued a statement or letter is to have the interested commissioner draft a letter to be reviewed and edited by the commission of the whole. The commission would need first to agree that they wish to draft such a letter. Commissioner Houk said before he votes to send a letter to City Council he would like to see the language being proposed, and make the HRC connection clear regarding quality of life issues. Commissioner King stated that he would like to include that we are pleased Councilmember Navarro has created this council committee and we strongly support him and hope that quality of life issues are addressed as they study this topic.

Motion made by Commissioner Castelli to select a person/s to create a draft letter to the UAV Workstudy working group addressing the concerns of unmanned aircraft vehicles and their impact on quality of life issues. The letter will be presented to the HRC for review and approval.

**Seconded by Commissioner Calender
8 in favor, 1 opposed. Motion approved**

Commissioners Castelli and Houk will draft the letter.

Commissioner Houk made the suggestion to have the Police come to the next meeting to discuss drones before we send the letter. This will show that the commission has looked into this and will give us data to strengthen the letter.

Agenda Item 4 – Challenge Day Update – Jay Scherotter

Commissioner Scherotter gave an update on the upcoming Challenge Day program. He is coordinating over 200 volunteers for eight schools. There are only nine open spots for volunteers. A letter is going out to all community volunteers in the next week confirming their participation and giving detailed information on the logistics for the day. The list of volunteers is very impressive – with councilmembers, school superintendents, business owners, city management, the HRC, Tempe Leadership, Tempe Community Council, etc. Commissioner Calender asked if the faith community is involved. Commissioner Scherotter said yes, there are two rabbis and many pastors.

The school coordinators are the school principals and vice principals. Even with their busy schedules, they are enthusiastic about Challenge Day. They have been busy selecting, inviting and confirming 100 students with signed guardian releases. In addition, they are responsible for getting teacher volunteers and covering the classes for these teachers in their absence from the classroom for the day.

Rosa reported that she is working with the school district media staff and our Community Relations staff in creating a PR plan and a press release.

Commissioner Scherotter said he will be asking the HRC Commissioners to assist by providing water donations at the schools where they will be volunteering. He will speak individually with each of them. Commission Scherotter then reported that securing lunch donations has been difficult, as it is a very big ask to request 125 free meals. Commissioners Chiu and Hochhaus have been working to try to get food donations, but are finding that the small local restaurants don't have the funding for this size donation, and the larger chains are difficult to secure. Rosa reported that the school district is working on filling in the gaps for lunch.

Rosa reported that she is working on a matrix for a pre and post-test for the participants. It is important to capture measurements with the amount of students we are impacting.

Agenda Item 5 – Unity Grant Update – Rosa Inchausti

Rosa reported that she gave the HRC working group (Jeanne, Belinda and Peter) a draft copy of the RFP. Please review, make changes and send back to Rosa. The plans are to send them out in February after Challenge Day, to possibly incorporate follow-up clubs or programs that the Unity Grants can help subsidize.

Agenda Item 6 – HRC Nominations for Chair and Vice-Chair

Motion made by Commissioner Chiu to nominate Commissioner Powers for Vice Chair.

Commission Powers accepted the nomination.

Second by Commissioner Calender.

Vice Chair nominations were closed.

Motion made by Commissioner Scherotter to nominate Commissioner Chiu for Chair.

Commissioner Chiu accepted the nomination.

Second by Commissioner Calender.

Chair nominations were closed.

Agenda Item 7 – HRC Elections for Chair and Vice-Chair

The motions electing Commissioner Powers as Vice Chair and Commissioner Chiu as Chair were unanimously approved.

Agenda Item 8 – Diversity Department Update

Ginny Belousek reported on the MLK Diversity Awards Dinner. The date is Saturday, January 16th at The Buttes Resort. The check-in and reception begins at 6 p.m., with the dinner and program from 7 – 9 p.m. Our keynote speaker is NeEddra James, Director of Education and Programs at Challenge Day. The award nomination deadline has been extended through Monday, December 14. To date we have received 6 adult, 1 business, 2 education and 2 youth nominations. The MLK Awards subcommittee consisting of Chris, Jeanne and Belinda will meet on Tuesday, December 15th at 6 p.m. at the Library to select the winners.

Rosa thanked Armando Espinoza and Jay Scherotter for their service on the HRC.

The Commission's next meeting will be **January 12, 2016**

Motion made by Commissioner Calender to adjourn the meeting

Second by Commissioner Aukland

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Prepared by: Ginny Belousek

Reviewed by: Rosa Inchausti