

Minutes Human Relations Commission October 10, 2017

Minutes of the HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION held on Tuesday, October 10, 2017, 6:00 p.m., at the Residence of Commissioner David Kader, 1242 E. Del Rio Dr., Tempe, Arizona 85282

(MEMBERS) Present:

Carl Hermanns
Jeanne Powers
David Kader
Dino Castelli
Chris Houk
Stefanie Garcia
Beth Dietz
B. J. Ayers
Amanda Lee Faustini

(MEMBERS) Absent:

Rochelle Johns
Ira King, Jr.

City Staff Present:

Ginny Belousek, Diversity Manager
Megan Hutchison, Diversity Executive Assistant

Call to Order

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

Agenda Item 1 – Public Appearances

No public appearances.

Agenda Item 2 – Welcome

Chair Hermanns thanked Commissioner Kader and his wife Pat for hosting the meeting at their home and sharing the Jewish Holiday, Sukkot with the commission. Commissioner Kader welcomed the commission and then educated the commission on the holiday.

Agenda Item 3 – Consideration of Minutes: HRC – August 8, 2017 Minutes (Motion Required)

MOTION: Commissioner Castelli moved to ACCEPT the minutes

SECOND: Commissioner Houk

DECISION: Minutes unanimously APPROVED

Agenda Item 4 – Update of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) Actions

Ginny Belousek updated the commission on her inquiries regarding Tempe's action plan. She spoke to Police Chief Moir and learned that she is a current LEITF (Law Enforcement Immigration Task Force) member. Chief Moir has also signed several letters of support, tweeted out support, and has shared stories of support. Ginny also spoke to Assistant Chief Angel Carbajal who has continued his outreach at the Mexican Consulates in an effort to assist victims and educate the community. Ginny also learned that Tempe Mayor Mark Mitchell participated in a Mayor's Day of Action on DACA and supported a letter to the President requesting the extension of the program. Ginny then relayed to the commission that the City has no authority since this is a Federal issue. All of this information was communicated to Chair Hermanns and Commissioner Kader to determine if a letter would need to be drafted and sent on behalf of the commission. It was decided that no additional action was needed at this time due to the amount of resources already being offered from the City, ASU, and many others. Chair Houk inquired if the commission felt it would be beneficial to put forth a statement supporting the efforts of the Mayor and ASU. Commissioner Kader pointed out the revived urgency regarding DACA given the recent White House position. The commission discussed the most effective way to get their voice heard and what they would like that voice to say. It was decided that Chair Hermanns and Commissioner Kader would draft a memo to the Mayor and Council to relay the commission's appreciation for the Mayor and Council's support of our DACA residents and to comment on the ongoing nature of the challenges and fear in our community due to the continuing policy uncertainties.

Agenda Item 5 – MEI Press Conference

Ginny Belousek shared with the commission that Tempe once again received a perfect score on the Municipal Equality Index. The Human Rights Campaign, out of Washington DC, will hold a press conference on October 19th at 3:00pm in the Council Chambers to highlight Tempe and announce our perfect score. She let the commission know that this is the 5th year Tempe has been ranked and with the exception of the first year, Tempe has scored 100 each time. Each year the criteria changes and much work goes in to ensure Tempe maintains it's perfect score. Ginny mentioned that this year she worked with the school districts to change their policies to include gender identification in the anti-bullying policies. Commissioner Dietz inquired if this included Charter schools. Ginny responded no.

Agenda Item 6 – Annual Board & Commission Report

Ginny Belousek reported that the 2017 Boards & Commission Annual Report will need to be submitted to the City Clerk's Office by December 1st. She has received a few emails from commissioners containing ideas for 2017 accomplishments and future goals. Ginny then listed the ideas and the commission discussed additional items to be added. Ginny will compile the report for review and approval at the next commission meeting.

The commission also discussed their concerns about the recent decline of Tempe schools' report cards. They discussed how they could assist with increasing these numbers and how the decline is affecting the community. It was decided that Ginny Belousek would invite Marie Raymond, City of Tempe Education & Youth Development Manager, to the next HRC meeting to discuss this topic.

Agenda Item 7 – Discussion on Las Vegas Tragedy

Chair Hermanns mentioned to the commission that this agenda item is beyond the purview of the commissioner but felt it was necessary to create a space open to discussing the recent tragedy. The commission then discussed their personal beliefs and feelings on the matter in an open and safe environment. It was decided that Assistant Chief Angel Carbajal would be invited to the commissions next meeting to discuss the city's gun policies and how the recent event would impact how Tempe manages big events.

Agenda Item 8 – Diversity Office Announcements

Ginny Belousek gave an update on the Tardeada festival. The event was very successful and it was the largest crowd to date.

Ginny updated the commission on the upcoming MLK Diversity Awards Breakfast. The event will not take place on the actual date of the holiday as past years and will instead be held on Monday, January 8, 2018. Ginny voiced her concerns on being able to utilize the Stand and Serve volunteers due to the date and time being during school hours. She then put out a request to the commission for volunteers to help with the check in table the day of the event. Ginny then let the commission know that she is working on securing a key note speaker for the event. Also, the call for nominations postcard has been mailed out and nominations are now open.

Ginny gave an update on Challenge Day. She will be sending an email out tomorrow requesting volunteers.

Ginny informed the commission that the Regional HRC meeting has been postponed to early Spring.

Commissioner Castelli voiced his concerns regarding his experiences when distributing the "Tempe Welcomes You As You Are" posters and them not being displayed. He inquired to the commission on their experiences with distributing the posters. The commission shared their concern and acknowledged there are different reasons for the posters not being displayed and thanked Commissioner Castelli for reminding them to distribute the posters to the public.

Agenda Item 9 - Upcoming Meeting November 14, 2017

Chair Hermanns announced that the next meeting will be on November 14, 2017.

Motion made by Commissioner Castelli to adjourn the meeting
Second by Commissioner Faustini
Meeting adjourned at 7:57 pm

Prepared by: Megan Hutchison

Reviewed by: Ginny Belousek