

Minutes Human Relations Commission November 7, 2017

Minutes of the HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION held on Tuesday, November 7, 2017, 6:00 p.m., at the City Hall, 3rd Floor Conference Room, 31 E. Fifth Street, Tempe, Arizona.

(MEMBERS) Present:

Rochelle Johns
Carl Hermanns
Ira King, Jr.
Jeanne Powers
David Kader
Dino Castelli
Chris Houk
Beth Dietz
Amanda Lee Faustini

(MEMBERS) Absent:

B. J. Ayers
Stefanie Garcia

City Staff Present:

Ginny Belousek, Diversity Manager
Megan Hutchison, Diversity Executive Assistant
Angel Carbajal, Assistant Police Chief

Call to Order

Chair Hermanns called the meeting to order at 6:07 p.m.

Agenda Item 1 – Public Appearances

No public appearances.

Agenda Item 2 – Consideration of Minutes: HRC – October 10, 2017 Minutes (Motion Required)

Commissioner Castelli voiced his concern on the wording of the minutes regarding the last paragraph of Agenda Item 8. He requested that the sentence be expanded upon to capture the entire conversation. The sentence will now read, “The commission shared their concern and acknowledged there are different reasons for the posters not being displayed.”

MOTION: Commissioner Castelli moved to ACCEPT the minutes with AMENDMENTS

SECOND: Commissioner Kader

DECISION: Minutes unanimously APPROVED with AMENDMENTS

Agenda Item 3 – Police Department Update

Chair Hermanns welcomed Assistant Police Chief Carbajal to the meeting. Assistant Chief Carbajal thanked the commission for the opportunity to present. He then distributed information

regarding statutes and laws regarding carrying a weapon. He then started the conversation by stating that he was not an attorney and if the commission had any questions they should seek professional advice. He informed the commission that municipalities do not have the ability to enact anyone's rights to carry a weapon. The commission proceeded to ask several questions regarding carrying a weapon and what a person was legally able to do with said weapon while in public. Assistant Chief Carbajal referenced the handout when answering all the questions. Due to the complex nature of the laws, Commissioner Houk inquired if a lawyer was available if a police officer had a question. Assistant Chief Carbajal responded that the Police Department has a legal advisor available 24/7 and all police officers are trained to freeze a situation until it can be resolved. The commission inquired if the City offers a gun buyback program for those that would like to get rid of their weapons. Assistant Chief Carbajal responded that the City is not offering such a program since they are not permitted to destroy weapons. The weapons would need to be either stored forever or sold to a wholesaler.

Chair Hermanns asked if a white supremacy rally was to take place on the ASU campus, what should the community be aware of and would the Police Department be prepared. Assistant Chief Carbajal responded that the Police Department would reach out to the leader of the group to inform them of the laws and help coordinate a peaceful event. Commissioner Castelli inquired if there were any concerns with events happening in Tempe such as the Unity Walk. Assistant Chief Carbajal responded that the Police Department does not have any concerns since Tempe has a long history of hosting events. Commissioner Houk inquired if the Police Department has seen a recent uptick in harassment. Assistant Chief Carbajal responded that Tempe has not had any recent hate crimes. He went on to say that having five in one year would be considered a large amount.

Commissioner Faustini inquired if police officers are trained on autistic behaviors. Assistant Chief Carbajal responded that officers are trained on general mental health disabilities. Officers are trained to be aware and to communicate effectively.

Chair Hermanns inquired if the Police Department was seeing any increase in terms of immigration enforcement. Assistant Chief Carbajal responded that they have not seen an increase. They are experiencing pressure from the federal government yet have been able to maintain a good relationship. Many cities rely on federal funding and that funding is being threatened. Also, the Police Department is continuing their community outreach at the Mexican Consulate in an effort to assist victims and educate the community.

The commission thanked Assistant Chief Angel Carbajal.

Agenda Item 4 – Annual Board & Commission Report

Ginny Belousek stated that the 2017 Annual Report is due to the City Clerk's Office by December 1st. The commission discussed the draft report and made note that two of the commissioners not only became certified but also taught the City's Equal Pay Negotiation Classes. They also discussed adding to the goal of having an HRC meeting in a community setting and would like to include "such as at a GAIN night gathering."

MOTION: Commissioner Faustini made a motion to have Ginny amend the report and submit to the City Clerk's Office

SECOND: Commissioner King

DECISION: Unanimous

Agenda Item 5 - Memo to Mayor and Council

Ginny Belousek updated the commission on the status of the memo to Mayor and Council authored by Chair Hermanns and Commissioner Kader on behalf of the HRC. The memo has been placed on City letterhead and has been added to the Council's Friday Packet. The Commission thanked Chair Hermanns and Commissioner Kader.

Ginny Belousek gave an update on Challenge Day, which started yesterday. There is still a need for volunteers and requested that the commissioners email her if they have availability. Commissioner Castelli relayed his Challenge Day experience and made note that at no time during the event was the HRC's involvement mentioned. This represents a missed opportunity for the commission to showcase their involvement in the community. Ginny will reach out to the Challenge Day facilitators and the School District Public Information Officer to ensure that the commission is recognized for their role in bringing the event to the schools.

Ginny updated the commission on the upcoming MLK Diversity Awards Breakfast. A key note speaker has been selected, Raveen Aurora. He is a past award winner and is also a Tempe resident and business owner. Ginny will email his biography to the commission.

Ginny gave an update on the Diversity Dialogues program, which ended yesterday. The program was a success with fifteen people regularly attending.

Ginny gave an update on the upcoming Unity Walk. The posters will be ready soon and she will email them to the commission.

Agenda Item 6 – Commissioner Ayers Concerns

Tabled until next meeting on December 5th.

Agenda Item 7 - Upcoming Meeting December 5, 2017

Motion made by Commissioner Castelli to adjourn the meeting
Second by Commissioner Houk
Meeting adjourned at 7:43 pm

Prepared by: Megan Hutchison

Reviewed by: Ginny Belousek