

Minutes

Human Relations Commission

March 12, 2019

Minutes of the HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION held on Tuesday, March 12, 2019, 6:00 p.m., at the City Hall, 3rd Floor Conference Room, 31 E. Fifth Street, Tempe, Arizona.

(MEMBERS) Present:

Carl Hermanns, Chair
Dino Castelli, Vice-Chair
Beth Dietz
Ira King, Jr.
Jeanne Powers
Joe Rojas
Hugo Tapia
Kate Vawter

(MEMBERS) Absent:

B. J. Ayers
Rochelle Johns
David Kader

City Staff Present:

Ginny Belousek, Diversity Manager
Megan Hutchison, Diversity Executive Assistant
Adrian Cascio, Sr. Social Services Coordinator/MYAC Staff Liaison

Call to Order

Chair Hermanns called the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m.

Agenda Item 1 – Public Appearances

None

Agenda Item 2 – Consideration of Minutes: HRC – February 12, 2019 Minutes (Motion Required)

Motion by Commissioner Tapia to approve the meeting minutes of February 12, 2019; Second by Commissioner King. Motion passed on a 7-0 vote. Ayes: Chair Carl Hermanns, Vice-Chair Dino Castelli, and Commissioners Ira King, Jeanne Powers, Joe Rojas, Hugo Tapia, and Kate Vawter. Nays: None. Absent: Commissioners BJ Ayers, Beth Dietz, Rochelle Johns, and David Kader.

Agenda Item 3 – Ambassador Program/Potential Partnership with MYAC

Chair Hermanns introduced Adrian Cascio to the Commission. Adrian introduced himself as the MYAC (Mayor's Youth Advisory Commission) staff liaison. He then gave the Commission a brief description of MYAC, which is comprised of 24 students from either high school or middle school. He then mentioned that they host an annual Youth Town Hall where the students choose three topics for discussion and make recommendations to the Mayor and Council. The three topics from the latest Town Hall were: LGBTQ Inclusion, Youth Employment, and Youth Engagement in Community. Chair Hermanns and Commissioner Dietz then presented the idea of an HRC Ambassador Program to Adrian and the Commission. They proposed the program would consist of two students from each school, one student would be from MYAC and the other would be from Stand & Serve. These students would be formally invited to two meetings a year. The first meeting would allow them to see what the HRC does and inform the students of their role in the program. The second meeting would be towards the end of the year and

would be an opportunity to come together and discuss the program. They also mentioned that the students would be aware of all HRC meetings and would have an open invitation to attend if they felt an agenda item was pertinent to them. The Commission discussed the Ambassador Program and Commissioners Tapia and Vawter both voiced their concerns that the program lacked structure and an incentive for the teens to participate. After further discussion, it was decided that the Commission would move forward with the program. Ginny Belousek will be contacting the schools and her Peer Solutions contacts to recruit students. The Commission also decided they would attend an upcoming MYAC meeting to present the Ambassador Program, and in turn they will invite MYAC to their June meeting to present on their most recent Youth Town Hall. Finally, it was decided Ginny would contact the City Clerk's office about the possibility of adding an additional seat on the HRC to be filled with a high school student. The Commission thanked Adrian Cascio for attending.

Agenda Item 4 – Diversity Office Report

Ginny Belousek updated the Commission on the upcoming Phoenix Pride Parade. The event will take place on Sunday April 7th at 10:00am. She then invited the Commission to attend, and if space permits, ride in the historic fire truck or walk with the City employees. She requested the Commission RSVP to her if interested.

Ginny then invited the Commission to the upcoming Mayor's Disability Awards on Tuesday, March 26th, 3:00 – 5:30pm at the Tempe Center for the Arts. If interested, please RSVP to Megan Hutchison.

Ginny reminded the Commission that she requested a volunteer from the HRC to review the upcoming Unity Grants. She let the Commission know that Commissioner Johns has volunteered to represent the HRC.

Ginny then informed the Commission that they have been invited to two Ramadan dinners. The first is a Pre-Ramadan dinner and is being hosted by the Tempe Islamic Center. The invitation is limited to Commissioners and their spouses and will take place on April 18th. If interested in attending, please RSVP to Ginny as soon as possible. The second dinner will be with the Mosque on McClintock. The Commission will meet briefly for the May meeting to approve the minutes and then adjourn for the dinner. This dinner is open to friends and family. Unfortunately, the Museum is unavailable on the regularly scheduled HRC meeting night, Tuesday, May 14th. With the Commission's permission, it is requested the May meeting be moved to the following day, May 15th. The Commission discussed and agreed to change the meeting night to May 15th. Ginny then requested the Commission RSVP to her with a total number of expected attendees.

Ginny updated the Commission regarding the upcoming Regional HRC Meeting. The meeting will be held on May 16th and those interested in attending will need to RSVP with Ginny.

Agenda Item 5 – Upcoming Meeting April 9, 2019

Motion made by Vice-Chair Castelli to adjourn the meeting
Second by Commissioner Tapia
Meeting adjourned at 7:24 p.m.

Prepared by: Megan Hutchison

Reviewed by: Ginny Belousek