

Minutes

Human Relations Commission

October 15, 2019

Minutes of the HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION held on Tuesday, October 15, 2019, 6:00 p.m., at the Residence of Commissioner David Kader, 1242 E. Del Rio Drive, Tempe, Arizona.

(MEMBERS) Present:

Carl Hermanns, Chair
Dino Castelli, Vice-Chair
Beth Dietz
David Kader
Jeanne Powers
Kate Vawter

(MEMBERS) Absent:

B. J. Ayers
Rochelle Johns
Ira King, Jr.
Joe Rojas
Hugo Tapia

City Staff Present:

Jonae Harrison, Equity & Inclusion Manager
Megan Hutchison, Executive Assistant
Mayor Mark Mitchell
Brianna Fisher, Mayoral Aide

Call to Order

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

Agenda Item 1 – Public Appearances

None

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 – September 10, 2019 Minutes (Motion Required)

Motion by Vice-Chair Castelli to approve the meeting minutes of September 10, 2019; Second by Commissioner Vawter. Motion passed on an 9-0 vote. Ayes: Chair Carl Hermanns, Vice-Chair Dino Castelli, and Commissioners Beth Dietz, David Kader, Jeanne Powers, and Kate Vawter. Nays: None. Absent: Commissioners B.J. Ayers, Rochelle Johns, Ira King, Jr., Joe Rojas, and Hugo Tapia.

Agenda Item 4 – Mayor's Remarks

Chair Hermanns welcomed Mayor Mark Mitchell to the meeting. Mayor Mitchell thanked the Commission for the invitation to participate and for the education on the Sukkot holiday. He extended his appreciation to the HRC for all the valuable work being done to help make Tempe a successful city with their many events, outreach, and support. He then mentioned his excitement for the newest HRC involved initiative, Equity in Action. The Commission asked the Mayor his perspective on the current Tempe community. Mayor Mitchell responded that Tempe is a remarkable city. This can be seen in how active and involved the residents are in the community. This is also seen in our satisfaction rating of 84%, as shown in the most recent Community Survey. He let the Commission know that at the upcoming State of the City he will be speaking about ways Tempe can continue to advance to become a better City. The Commission thanked the Mayor for attending.

Agenda Item 5 – Equity in Action Update

Jonae Harrison let the Commission know that five applications have been submitted, two from companies and three from individuals. She also mentioned that the deadline will be extended as we continue to conduct outreach in the community in hopes of reaching ten submittals.

Agenda Item 6 – Diversity Office Update

Jonae gave an update on the recent Tardeada event on October 6. The event was very successful and they are looking to hand out stickers next year to help get a more accurate head count.

Jonae let the Commission know that everything is confirmed with the upcoming Challenge Day programs on October 28, 29, and 30. They have plenty of volunteers and the food and water has been handled.

Jonae then let the Commission know that the upcoming MLK Diversity Awards will be held on Friday, January 17, 2020 at the Tempe Marriott Buttes. This will be the Friday before the holiday. Nominations will be opening soon, and she is currently working with MYAC to generate youth nominations. She then asked the Commission to consider Erica Maxwell, Arizona Department of Education's first-ever Associate Superintendent of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion, for the role of speaker at the event. The Commission discussed and agreed to move forward with Jonae's recommendation.

Jonae informed the Commission of the upcoming Unity Walk event which will be held on Saturday, January 25, 2020. It will again be held at Tempe Beach Park with the festival beginning at 4:30pm and the walk at 6:00pm. The Commission discussed expanding the event for the 2021 festival.

Agenda Item 7 – Upcoming Meeting November 12, 2019

Motion made by Vice-Chair Castelli to adjourn the meeting
Second by Commissioner Vawter
Meeting adjourned at 7:48 p.m.

Prepared by: Megan Hutchison

Reviewed by: Jonae Harrison