

Minutes

Human Relations Commission

November 12, 2019

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

(MEMBERS) Present:

Dino Castelli, Vice-Chair
B. J. Ayers
Beth Dietz
Ira King, Jr.
Hugo Tapia
Kate Vawter

(MEMBERS) Absent:

Carl Hermanns, Chair
David Kader
Rochelle Johns
Jeanne Powers
Joe Rojas

City Staff Present:

Jonae Harrison, Equity & Inclusion Manager
Megan Hutchison, Executive Assistant
Carla Reece, City Clerk

Call to Order

Vice-Chair Castelli called the meeting to order at 6:13 p.m.

Agenda Item 1 – Public Appearances

None

Agenda Item 2 – Consideration of Minutes: HRC – October 15, 2019 Minutes (Motion Required)

Motion by Commissioner Vawter to approve the meeting minutes of October 15, 2019; Second by Commissioner Ayers. Motion passed on a 6-0 vote. Ayes: Vice-Chair Dino Castelli, and Commissioners B.J. Ayers, Beth Dietz, Ira King, Jr., Hugo Tapia, and Kate Vawter. Nays: None. Absent: Chair Carl Hermanns, Commissioners David Kader, Rochelle Johns, Jeanne Powers, and Joe Rojas.

Agenda Item 3 – HRC History & City Charter

Vice-Chair Castelli welcomed and introduced City Clerk Carla Reece to the Commission. Carla thanked the Commission for the invitation and the opportunity to provide information. Carla then distributed copies of the Ordinance and Tempe City Code regarding the HRC to the Commission. She proceeded to read from the handouts. The Commission discussed their powers and duties as outlined in the City Code. They further discussed how they could expand upon what they are currently doing to include more public outreach and a possible location change in order to be more welcoming and accessible to the community. It was decided that Commissioner Dietz would research, and present at the December meeting, on different groups that should be invited to future commission meetings. It was also decided that they would further discuss, and vote on, permanently moving the meetings to a more accessible location. The Commission thanked Carla for attending.

Agenda Item 4 – Dolores Huerta Recognition

Jonae informed the Commission that Vice Mayor Kuby had brought forward a request to recognize activist Dolores Huerta. Included in the request was the recognition being paired with a current Tempe Board and Commission. She then let the Commission know that several city staff discussed the request and it was determined the HRC would be the best Commission to support this effort. During the discussion, staff decided upon four possible ways to commemorate Dolores Huerta: Day of Service (4/10), Scholarship for High School student, Scholarship for neighbor, and a fellowship program. The Commission discussed the request and decided they would be more than willing to spearhead the effort. They also discussed the four options put forward and decided that they would like Jonae to explore the viability of a fellowship. It was also decided that they would add this topic to the January meeting to further discuss.

Agenda Item 5 – Diversity Office Update

Jonae updated the Commission on the upcoming MLK Diversity Awards. This year the event will feature a b-roll video of footage with an overlay of current activism. She also let the Commission know that nominations are now open and two have already been submitted. Also, they have started publicizing the event on various platforms.

Jonae informed the Commission of the upcoming Unity Walk event which will be held on Saturday, January 25, 2020. She will be meeting with the other participating cities the week of 11/19 to discuss the upcoming event and she plans on proposing a canned food drive as part of the walk. The Commission discussed and decided against the idea and would rather focus efforts on increasing attendance for the event.

Agenda Item 6 – Upcoming Meeting December 10, 2019

Motion made by Commissioner Vawter to adjourn the meeting
Second by Commissioner Tapia
Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Prepared by: Megan Hutchison

Reviewed by: Jonae Harrison