

Minutes Human Relations Commission June 9, 2020

Minutes of the HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION held on Tuesday, June 9, 2020, 6:00 p.m., virtually through Microsoft Teams at the following link: [Join Microsoft Teams Meeting](#) or by telephone: +1 480-498-8745 United States, Phoenix (Toll), Conference ID: 128 729 724#

(MEMBERS) Present:

Chair Kate Vawter
Vice Chair Hugo Tapia
Dino Castelli
Beth Dietz
Michelle Donati-Grayman
Jana Lynn Granillo
Carl Hermanns
William Ortega
Jeanne Powers
Joe Rojas (Arrived late)

(MEMBERS) Absent:

Ira King, Jr.

City Staff Present:

Jonae Harrison, Equity & Inclusion Manager
Megan Hutchison, Executive Assistant to the City Manager's Office

Call to Order

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

Agenda Item 1 – Public Appearances

Kathy Finger
Brian D. Walker

Agenda Item 2 – Consideration of Minutes: HRC – May 12, 2020

Motion made by Commissioner Castelli to approve the meeting minutes of May 12, 2020; Second by Commissioner Donati-Grayman. Motion passed on a 9-0 vote. Ayes: Chair Vawter, Vice Chair Tapia, and Commissioners Dino Castelli, Beth Dietz, Michelle Donati-Grayman, Jana Lynn Granillo, Carl Hermanns, William Ortega, and Jeanne Powers. Nays: None. Absent: Commissioners Ira King, Jr. and Joe Rojas.

Agenda Item 3 – New Commissioner William Ortega

Chair Vawter welcomed William Ortega to the Commission and invited him to introduce himself.

Agenda Item 4 – Winter 2021 Events

- a. MLK
- b. Unity Walk

Chair Vawter described the upcoming Winter events sponsored by the Commission. Jonae Harrison then requested more time to give the Commission an update on the events due to recent events. The Commission discussed several options regarding the upcoming events, which included the option of hosting the Winter events digitally. It was decided the Commission would discuss further at the next meeting.

Agenda Item 5 – Updates

a. COVID-19

Jonae let the Commission know that the City created a Reopening Advisory Group to provide recommendations to the City. The current plan is to completely reopen the City on June 15. This decision will be finalized on June 10 and will depend on the number of COVID-19 cases. Jonae reminded the Commission that the City is still open by appointment only. She then updated the Commission on the City's budget. The City will be receiving Cares Act Funding in the amount of \$22.5 million. The City is also currently working on a 10% budget cut for fiscal year 20/21 that will be open to the public for feedback.

b. Equity Survey

Jonae updated the Commission on the status of the survey. It will be sent out on June 16. She requested the Commission help spread the word.

c. Recommendation for Masks

Jonae informed the Commission that the memo they had voted on at the May meeting was sent to the Mayor and Council. The memo was even referenced and discussed during a Council meeting. It was decided that the use of masks will be recommended by the City, not mandated.

Agenda Item 6 – George Floyd Incident

Chair Vawter opened the floor to discussion regarding the recent George Floyd incident. The Commission discussed the incident and possible ways they can show their support. Chair Vawter reminded the Commission that it is within purview to provide recommendations to Mayor and Council. She then reiterated the ideas brought forward by the Commission: 1. Acknowledge Juneteenth, 2. Increase voting, 3. Increase education, and 4. Improve inequalities in schools. She then asked the Commission to send any additional ideas to Jonae Harrison via email. Jonae informed the Commission that there are several things already happening in the City both internally and externally. Internally the City is offering resources and webinars to employees regarding the issues surrounding the George Floyd incident. Externally the City is discussing bringing back the Diversity Dialogues and looking into other community conversations that can be reestablished. She then advised the Commission the City has been working on a policy initiative, "The Right to Breathe" action plan which has already been adopted by Council. Jonae then described the plan to the Commission and let them know that the information can also be found on our website. The Commission asked how they can assist and she let them know that they can email her if they are interested in being a part of "The Right to Breathe" working group.

Agenda Item 7 – HRC Structure and Vision

Tabled until next meeting.

Agenda Item 8 – Proposed Future Agenda Items

Commissioner Rojas requested an update on the Antonio Arce case. Commissioner Dietz then requested a Police Department update and a possible invitation to the Black Lives Matter Phoenix group to the next meeting. Chair Vawter let the Commission know that if they have any additional items they would like added to future agendas, they should contact Jonae Harrison.

Agenda Item 9 – Upcoming Meeting July 14, 2020

Meeting will be held virtually through Microsoft Teams

Motion made by Commissioner Donati-Grayman to adjourn the meeting

Second by Commissioner Castelli

Meeting adjourned at 7:58 p.m.