Tempe

Minutes
Human Relations Commission
March 11th, 2008

Minutes of the HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION held on TUESDAY, March 11th, 2008 6:00 P.M. at City Hall, 3rd Floor Conference Room, 31 East Fifth Street, Tempe, Arizona.

(MEMBERS) Present:
Zach Berning
Florence Boyle
Colleen Byron
Linda Ritland
Fentress Truxon
Janis Webb
Muhammed Zubair

(MEMBERS) Absent:
Arlene Chin
Joseph Mann
Gail Paredes-Ewen
Safali Patel-Evans
Irina Pohaota
Patricia Young

City Staff Present:
Rosa Inchausti
Brandy Naleski

Guests Present:
Mark Richwine, City of Tempe Parks and Rec Manager

Meeting convened at 6:13 P.M.

Chair Colleen Byron called the meeting to order and invited members of the public to address the Commission.

Agenda Item 1 – Public Appearances
None

Agenda Item 2 –Consideration of Minutes
February 12th, 2008

Commissioner Fentress Truxon had a few changes to the February minutes.
MOTION: Commissioner Linda Ritland made a motion to accept minutes as amended.
SECOND: Commissioner Florence Boyle
DECISION: Motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item 3 – Diversity Park Discussion
Mark Richwine, Parks and Recreation Manager for the City of Tempe attended the meeting. Mark advised the commission that historically the final authority of naming parks within the City of Tempe rests with the Mayor and Council. They have at times, consulted various Boards and Commissions for

suggestions. Out of the 47 parks, all but 4 of them are named after a civic organization or individual. There is an option for a Diversity Park but the decision rests with Mayor and Council.

Commissioner Truxon asked Mr. Richwine about the soccer posts in neighborhood parks. Mr. Richwine clarified that 1) nets are not provided by the city and 2) the decision whether or not to have goal posts is decided in the original design of the park, or can be added or taken out at the request of the neighborhood.

Commissioner Zubair asked Mr. Richwine about noise and traffic around his neighborhood park. This noise and traffic is caused by individuals playing soccer. Mr Richwine explained that unless otherwise reserved through his department, parks are open to all citizens to enjoy and the parks close at 10:00pm.

Chair Byron brought the discussion back to the topic at hand, Diversity Park. The original suggestion was for the Tempe Butte. She asked Mr. Richwine if he saw any impediment with that location. Mr. Richwine responded that the official name of that park is Hayden Butte Preserve. He suggested some other locations, including 6th Street Park, Indian Bend Park and the Tempe Sports Complex. The commission thanked Mr. Richwine for attending the meeting and the information.

Agenda Item 4 – Diversity Dialogues Fall 2007 Update

Rosa presented recommendations and response to the letter that came out of the Diversity Dialogues Fall Session. Commissioner Truxon thanked the Diversity Office for the response. There was discussion of the validity of the comments made by participants, perhaps some issues were from a result of being uninformed. Rosa advised that copies of the recommendations were given to Mayor, Council, and the City Manager. Rosa will be meeting with the City Manager to discuss and bring forth to the department managers.

Agenda Item 5 – Diversity Brochure

Proposed changes to the Diversity Brochure were reviewed by the commissioners and approved. The Diversity Department will move forward with the revisions and reorder the brochure.

Agenda Item 6 –Regional HRC Meeting

Chair Byron provided an update on the Regional HRC Meeting that was held on March 3rd. The new HRC Commissioner Patricia Young attended; Colleen shared that Commissioner Young will be a great addition to the commission. Overall, the meeting was good; a presentation about the Anne Frank exhibit in Chandler was discussed. An update of all proposed legislation regarding immigration was distributed. After discussion, it was decided that Colleen Byron would draft a letter on behalf of the commission regarding the proposed immigration legislature.

Staff Rosa Inchausti shared that Gilbert's HRC has been absorbed into the Arts Commission and the City of Mesa is cutting back their cultural celebrations due to the budget issues. Commissioner Ritland urged that we should help them; the HRC should be expressing concern for the dismantling of these programs. Commissioner Truxon commented that it comes down to leadership. Chair Byron suggested that the commission present at the next Regional HRC meeting.

Agenda Item 7 – Letter of complaint

Commissioner Truxon was given a letter from the staff liaison to the Phoenix HRC. The letter is from an inmate claiming innocence and asking for help. The commission reviewed the letter. Commissioner

Webb stated that before the commission can get involved, background information is needed into the case.

After discussion of the what action should be taken in regards to this letter:
MOTION: Commissioner Zubair made a motion to ask the City Attorney to advise the commission on what to do.
SECOND: Commissioner Truxon
DECISION: Motion passed unaminously.

Agenda 8- April & May HRC Meeting Dates
There are conflicts for the next two HRC meetings. April 8th is also the night of the Boards and Commission Orientation that 3 commissioners are attending. The week of May 13th, Staff Rosa Inchausti will be in New York testing for a diversity certification. After discussion, it was decided to schedule a meeting April 29th. This will cover both April and May meetings.

Agenda 9- HRC Strategic Plan Update
Chair Colleen Byron requested an update from the following subcommittees:

A. **Subcommittee for Development of Emerging Issues Report:** Call for ad-hoc committee to address the Regional HRC issues. Commissioner Zach Berning will chair the committee, Commissioners Muhammed Zubair and Commissioner Florence Boyle will also participate.
   1. **GLBT Issue** No report.
   2. **Hate Crimes Follow Up** – Update will be provided at April Meeting.
B. **Subcommittee for Community Network and Outreach:** No report.
C. **Subcommittee on Strategic Oversight:** No report
D. **Supplier Diversity Committee Report:** Rosa Inchausti is meeting with Grand Canyon Minority Supplier Development Council next week.

Agenda Item 10– Diversity Department Update
Staff Rosa Inchausti shared an update on the Diversity Department:
The Department has several events coming up.
Who's Your Neighbor- March 12th 12-1pm at the Council Chambers
Diversity Leadership Alliance- March 19th at Tempe Center for the Arts
Women In Networking- March 24th titled Dress for Success
Gay Straight Alliance, March 26th
Mayor's Disability Awards, April 30th at Tempe Center for the Arts

Agenda Item 10 -Current Events Announcements

The commission's next meeting will be April 29th, 2008.

Meeting adjourned at 8:13 P.M.

Prepared by: Brandy Naleski

Reviewed by: Rosa Inchausti

Rosa Inchausti, Diversity Manager