

**Minutes  
Human Relations Commission  
March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2008**

**Minutes of the HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION held on TUESDAY, March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2008  
6:00 P.M. at City Hall, 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 12<sup>th</sup>, 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 6<sup>th</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup>. 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 unanimously.**

#### **Agenda 8- April & May HRC Meeting Dates**

There are conflicts for the next two HRC meetings. April 8<sup>th</sup> is also the night of the Boards and Commission Orientation that 3 commissioners are attending. The week of May 13<sup>th</sup>, Staff Rosa Inchausti will be in New York testing for a diversity certification. After discussion, it was decided to schedule a meeting April 29<sup>th</sup>. 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 12<sup>th</sup> 12-1pm at the Council Chambers

Diversity Leadership Alliance- March 19<sup>th</sup> at Tempe Center for the Arts

Women In Networking- March 24<sup>th</sup> titled Dress for Success

Gay Straight Alliance, March 26<sup>th</sup>

Mayor's Disability Awards, April 30<sup>th</sup> 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

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Rosa Inchausti, Diversity Manager