Tempe

Minutes
Human Relations Commission
June 10th, 2008

Minutes of the HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION held on TUESDAY, June 10h, 2008 6:00 P.M. at City Hall, 3rd Floor Conference Room, 31 East Fifth Street, Tempe, Arizona.

(MEMBERS) Present:
Colleen Byron
Arlene Chin
Gail Paredes-Ewen
Irina Pohaota
Linda Ritland
Patricia Young
Janis Webb
Muhammed Zubair

(MEMBERS) Absent:
Zach Berning
Florence Boyle
Safali Patel-Evans
Joseph Mann
Fentress Truxon

City Staff Present:
Rosa Inchausti, Diversity Manager
Charles Cobb,Tempe Police Department
Amy Douglas, Museum Administrator
Sgt.Scott Smith,Tempe Police Department

Guests Present:
John Dolan, Marcos de Niza High School
Michelle Hensen, McClintock High School
Jayson Matthews, Tempe Community Council

Meeting convened at 6:15 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
April 29th, 2008

MOTION: Commissioner Gail Paredes-Ewen made a motion to accept minutes.
SECOND: Commissioner Arlene Chin
DECISION: Motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item 3 – Community Letter Follow-up
Sgt. Scott Smith conducted an administrative review of a letter from an inmate requesting assistance. The letter was sent to the Phoenix Human Relations Commission and since it pertained to the inmates experience in Tempe the letter was forwarded to the Tempe Human Relations Commission for review. Sgt. Scott Smith explained that the inmate, Mr. Gary Duckworth, has been incarcerated for twelve years. Mr. Duckworth alleges that he was framed by officers for a rape and would like assistance with getting new state of the art DNA testing done to prove his innocence. Sgt. Scott Smith had the Sex Crimes unit

review the case in detail which reported no malfesen with proceedings. Sgt. Scott Smith then reinvestigated the case and all of Mr. Duckworth's criminal history dating back to October 1994. Sgt. Smith states that there were multiple witnesses to the situation, therefore it was not based on the sole accounts of the police officers. The County Attorney's office also reviewed the case and once in the court system Mr. Duckworth plead not guilty but a unanimous vote came back from the jury finding him guilty. Due to the evidence of the case, a trial court system denied his appeal. The Arizona Court of Appeals Superior Court upheld the decision. Mr. Duckworth is serving 10 years for burglary and 13 years for rape. The burglary portion is fulfilled but he will continue to serve his time until 2015 for the rape. Mr. Duckworth has criminal priors in Texas, Florida, New Jersey and Mesa, Arizona. Sgt. Smith believes the case was given due diligence and is no longer a police matter, but one of the courts.

Commissioner Ritland asked if there should be a response to the letter. Sgt. Smith offered to help draft a letter of response to Mr. Ducksworth on behalf of the Tempe Human Relations Commission. The Phoenix Human Relations Commission would be copied on the letter.
Commissioner Zubair thanked Sgt. Smith and the Tempe Police Department for going above and beyond his expectations in reviewing the case.
Chair Byron agreed to review and sign the letter by Sgt. Smith to Mr. Duckworth and the Phoenix Human Relations Commission.

Agenda Item 4 – Pluralisim Exhibit
Amy Douglass, Museum Administrator, briefed the Commission on upcoming changes to the Museum. The current renovation project will require closing the museum for approximately one year. The mission of the project is to create a destination attraction as the "Best Community History Museum in the West." One of the new features will include redefining the exhibit area to feature flexible spaces with changing exhibits. They will also use technology and innovative interpretation to dramatically stage the stories of Tempe. Another goal is to create a kid-friendly area that involves families and schools in educational activities. More importantly, the renovation project will help further facilitate the museums mission to create a true community history museum.

Commissioner Zubair suggested that the City of Tempe create a community space that people can rent such as the Chandler Art Center. He also suggested looking into connecting the library to the museum to increase the museum patronage.

Agenda Item 5 – Unity Grant Presentations
Michelle Hensen from McClintock High School and Tempe High School presented on the "Our Town" diversity leadership program. The program is tailored after the "Anytown" program. It takes place during a four day retreat, with student topics such as, communications, respect and stereotypes. Approximately 80 youth participate from McClintock High School and Tempe High School. The students have grown to be very close.
Commissioner Young asked about the training for the counselors. Anytown provides one director for the retreat and all the diversity training for the staff and counselors.
Commissioner Ritland asked about the referral process. Michelle explained that the students apply on their own or are referred by their teachers.
Commissioner Paredes-Ewen asked about the cost. The total cost of the program is $11,000 or approximately $135.00 per student.
Chair Byron asked Michelle to notify the Commission of future dates because she would like to attend.

John Dolan from Marcos De Niza presented on their Diversity Week. The focus of the week-long activities is to educate students on other cultures, leadership and the importance of staying drug and alcohol free. Approximately 70 students plan the week's activities. The students either serve on the student council or are referred by their teacher. The week's activities include different cultural lunches,

presentations from individuals from various faith and cultural backgrounds, the Pledge of Allegiance in different languages, etc. City Departments such as the Police and Diversity Department participated in the event.

Chair Byron shared that is was great to see the students in leadership roles use their skills with the planning and development of this diversity program.

Agenda Item 6 – Community Forum Idea
Item to be discussed next month

Agenda Item 7- HRC Strategic Plan Update
Chair Colleen Byron requested an update from the following subcommittees:

A. **Subcommittee for Development of Emerging Issues Report:** Commissioner Webb requested the need to assign a new Chair for this subcommittee. Will discuss at the next meeting.
   1. **GLBT Issue** No report.
   2. **Hate Crimes Follow Up** – No report
B. **Subcommittee for Community Network and Outreach:** No report
C. **Subcommittee on Strategic Oversight:** Commisioner Paredes-Ewen will call one last meeting to finish revamping the strategic plan.
D. **Supplier Diversity Committee Report:** Chair Byron agreed to take over Chairing the subcommittee after some dialogue takes place with Commissioner Zubair.
E. **Diversity Awards Subcommittee Update –** Commissioner Ritland reported that the subcommittee had met and there is the possibility of having the awards at the Fiesta Inn in Tempe. The Diversity Department has received verbal commitment of sponsorship but will know more in the next couple of months. The subcommittee also discussed having the award nominations deadline moved up to October to allow for more time for review and award ceremony preparations. The subcommittee is requesting suggestions from the Human Relations Commission on possible speakers.

   Commissioner Webb asked for clarification regarding the Mayor's comments at the MLK Diversity Awards Brunch in January. She is confused about his comments regarding having the attire be more casual or if he would like the brunch to be more affordable. Commissioner Paredes-Ewen stated she believes he meant for the brunch to more affordable.
   Staff will follow-up with the Mayor for clarification and report back at the July 8th HRC meeting.

   The Regional HRC meeting was hosted by Scottsdale in May. Chair Byron, Commissioner Ritland, Commissioner Webb, Commissioner Mann, Commissioner Young and Commissioner Truxon attended. The president from the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce presented. Commissioner Webb requested any support available for the Elias House. The Gilbert HRC has been combined with the Arts Commission. Chair Byron congratulated the Tempe Mayor and Council for historically being supportive of the HRC and the Diversity Department.

Agenda Item 9– Diversity Department Update
Unity Walk – Commissioner Ritland reported a possible new venue of the Tempe Center for the Arts for the walk. Walkers would begin at different points on the lake and culminate at the TCA. Due to last years collaborative success, Beth Fiorenza, Executive Director of the Tempe Community Action Agency, has committed to partnering the Empty Bowls program with the Unity walk once again.

Agenda Item 10 -Current Events Announcements

The commission's next meeting will be July 8th, 2008.

Meeting adjourned at 8:22 P.M.

Prepared by: Rosa Inchausti

Reviewed by: Ginny Belousek

Rosa Inchausti, Diversity Manager