

Minutes Human Relations Commission September 12, 2023

Minutes of the HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION held on Tuesday, September 12, 2023, 6:00 p.m., held both In-Person & Virtually: Tempe Public Library 2nd Floor Conference Room, 3500 South Rural Road, Tempe, AZ 85282 & Microsoft Teams at the following link: [Join Microsoft Teams Meeting](#) or by telephone: (480) 498-8745, United States, Phoenix (Toll), Conference ID: 762 995 762#

(MEMBERS) Present:

Hugo Tapia, Chair
Kate Vawter
Tom Brown
Pamela Chan
Melissa Farling
Rabbanni FurQaan
Candyce Lindsay
Joe Rojas

(MEMBERS) Absent:

William Ortega
David Reynolds
Peggie Simmons, Vice-Chair

City Staff Present:

Dr. Velicia McMillan Humes, Chief Diversity Officer
Elena Hale, Cultural Programs & Public Education Coordinator
Mercedes Payne, Community Services Manager
Alicia Jerger, Sr. Recreation Coordinator
Eric Iwersen, Sustainability & Resilience, Director

Guests

Call to Order

Chair Tapia called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

Agenda Item 1 – Public Appearances

None

Agenda Item 2 – Consideration of Minutes: HRC – August 8, 2023

Motion to approve August 8, 2023, Minutes: Commissioner FurQaan, Second by Commissioner Farling. Motion passed on a 8-0 vote. Ayes: Chair Tapia and Commissioners Brown, Vawter, Chan, Farling, Lindsay, FurQaan, and Rojas. Nays: None. Absent: Commissioners: Ortega, Reynolds, Simmons.

Agenda Item 3 – Making Space: Equity Audit

Chair Tapia introduced and welcomed Mercedes Payne and Alicia Jerger, City of Tempe staff, to the meeting.

Staff presented the *Making Space: City of Tempe Equity Study for Parks & Recreation* survey. The survey was designed to assess public spaces and their utilization to determine real and perceived gaps. They spoke to their positive results, community partnerships, and engaging historically underreached communities in the process. Chair Tapia asked if the community would continue to weigh in on the project process. Mercedes confirmed there would be a virtual and in-person meeting at Escalante in October. Chair Tapia thanked the team for their presentation, time, and work.

Agenda Item 4 – Refresh Tempe: Transportation, ADA and Sustainability & Resiliency

Chair Tapia introduced Eric Iwersen, City of Tempe Staff, to the meeting.

Eric spoke about the suggested improvements to Mill Avenue, both below the street as well as the aesthetics and functionality of the streets and sidewalk. Eric presented 3 concepts that will be presented to Council on September 28th, 2023; all concepts included paving materials, tree species recommendations, and aesthetic elements.

Commissioner Farling thanked the team for their inclusion of local Indigenous peoples in their planning. Commissioner FurQaan asked if the team planned to increase pedestrian space on street corners and widen the sidewalks. Eric noted the sidewalks would stay the same, but they are asking for the corners to be expanded. Eric mentioned that bike lanes and parking widths would also remain the same.

Chair Tapia thanked City Staff for their presentation and work.

Agenda Item 6 – Announcements

- Chaparral Park
 - o Community members reported the inability to access high speed internet. IT Director Jared Morris and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Office are currently working on solutions with the community.
- BLM Phoenix: Youth Diversion Program
 - o Members were reminded and encouraged to attend the upcoming October presentation to be delivered by BLM Phoenix, on the Youth Diversion Program they are developing.

Agenda Item 7 – Proposed Future Agenda Items

None

Agenda Item 8 – Discussion of Upcoming Meeting Date – October 10, 2023

- BLM Phoenix: Youth Diversion Program

Motion made by Commissioner Brown to adjourn the meeting
Second by Commissioner Chan
Meeting adjourned at 7:57 p.m.