

Minutes

Human Relations Commission

December 12, 2023

Minutes of the HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION held on Tuesday, December 12, 2023, 6:00 – 8:00 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
Jose Rojas
Tom Brown
Candyce Lindsay
Rabbanni FurQaan
Melissa Farling
Kate Vawter
Pamela Chan

(MEMBERS) Absent:

Peggie Simmons, Vice Chair

City Staff Present:

Elena Hale, Cultural Programs & Public Education Coordinator
Dr. Velicia McMillan Humes, Chief Diversity Officer

Guests

Call to Order

Chair Tapia called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m.

Agenda Item 1 – Public Appearances

None

Agenda Item 2 – Approval of Minutes: HRC – October 10, 2023, November 14, 2023

Motion to approve October 10th, 2023 Minutes: Commissioner Vawter, Seconded by Commissioner Farling. Approved. Motion to approve November 14, 2023 Minutes: Commissioner FurQaan, Seconded by Commissioner Lindsay. Commissioner Vawter abstained. Approved.

Agenda Item 3 – Dolores Huerta Scholarship Update: Dr. Humes

Dr. Humes updated the commission on the formal partnership with Chicanos Por La Causa, sponsoring the scholarship. Dr. Humes continued on to inform the commission that Chicanos Por La Causa will also be extending additional benefits to the scholarship winner, including eligibility for their own scholarship programs. The commission requested that Chicanos Por La Causa attend the event to present the award directly to the scholarship recipient. Dr. Humes agree, and will reach out directly to the contact.

Agenda Item 4 – Discussion: Commission Updates, 2024: Elena Hale

Elena notified the commission that this would be Commissioner Rojas' final meeting with Human Relations Commission, and thanked him for his service to the residents of the City of Tempe. Elena notified the commission that they will have 3 vacancies. Mayor Woods has made 3 recommendations; they will be appointed in December, and attend the February meeting.

Agenda Item 5 – Discussion: Election of Officers: Elena Hale

Chair Tapia announced he would not be seeking re-election as Chair. He thanked everyone for their time, support, and accomplishments together. He will continue to emcee the event in January, but will not continue Chair duties following the event.

The commission opted to hold a special meeting January 9th to elect new officers. Elena will send out a Teams meeting invite.

Agenda Item 6 – Annual Report

Commissioners requested the following to be added to the Accomplishments section:

- Commissioners Farling and Rojas attended the Transformational Policing Model training.
- Commissioner Brown attended the Faith + Action Breakfast on February 9th.
- The Human Relations Commission continued their work with the Unity Grant, Dolores Huerta Grant, Tardeada scholarship selection, and the Martin Luther King Jr. Awards Breakfast.

Commissioners requested the following be added to the Goals section:

- The Commission suggested that they revisit the retreat notes to better guide future goals.
- Commissioner Farling suggested a focus on affordable housing, and the gaps in equity.
- The commission requested an existing goal be updated to include continued community work through collaborations with existings boards and commissions within the City of Tempe.
- The commission requested a goal of researching, developing, and establishing the gaps in the community through data and staff engagement. They would like to see measurable determinants to work alongside the existing Council priorities of Quality of Life and Safe & Secure Communities.

Agenda Item 7 – Announcements

The Martin Luther King Jr. Diversity Awards Planning Committee updated the commission that they received 16 nominations overall and have selected the winners. The Planning Committee announced they have selected the winners, and are looking forward to the event.

Agenda Item 8 - Proposed Future Agenda Items

None

Agenda Item 9 – Discussion of Upcoming Meeting Date – January 9, 2024

The meeting will take place virtually and solely for the election of officers. Elena will send a link to the meeting.

**Motion made by Commissioner Lindsay to adjourn the meeting.
Second by Commissioner Chan.
Meeting adjourned at 7:45 PM.**

Prepared by: Elena Hale

Reviewed by: Velicia McMillan Humes