

# Minutes

## Human Relations Commission

### May 14, 2024

Minutes of the HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION held on Tuesday, May 14, 2024, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m., held both In-Person & Virtually: Tempe Public Library 2<sup>nd</sup> 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:**

Rabbanni FurQaan, Chair  
Hugo Tapia  
Tom Brown  
Melissa Farling  
Peggie Simmons  
Richard Sederstrom  
Candyce Lindsay (Vice-Chair)  
Kate Vawter  
Pamela Chan

**(MEMBERS) Absent:**

Heather Cimino-Lance  
Karyn Lathan

**City Staff Present:**

Elena Hale, Staff Liaison  
Dr. Velicia McMillan Humes, Chief Diversity Officer  
Maja Aurora, Community Arts Manager

**Guests**

Jacqueline Swan, Tempe Arts & Culture Commission

**Call to Order**

Chair FurQaan called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

**Agenda Item 1 – Native Land Acknowledgement Statement**

**Agenda Item 2 – Public Appearances**

None

**Agenda Item 3 – Approval of Minutes: HRC – April 9, 2024**

Commissioner Tapia made a motion to approve the April 9, 2024 Minutes. Commissioner Farling seconded. Commissioner Vawter abstained. Approved unanimously.

**Agenda Item 4 – Tempe Arts + Culture Commission Presentation + Discussion**

Staff Maja Aurora introduced the Commission to the various branches of Arts + Culture. Maja discussed the importance of Community Arts by way of accessible arts programs such as: Arts in the Park, community art classes, arts grants, the Tempe Playlist, and school-based classes. Maja continued to

speaking about the History Museum's exhibitions, historic homes, tours, and field trips. Commissioner Swan from the Tempe Arts & Culture Commission spoke about the accessibility of these programs, as most of them are available along the Orbit line. Maja shared the importance of Public Art within the built environment, and how their work follows capital improvement projects. Staff explained the public review process of their work, and their commitment to bringing the community in on decisions. Maja concluded with the work of the Tempe Center for the Arts, including their rental availabilities and their produced programs.

Commissioner Lindsay thanked Commissioner Swan and Maja for attending, as well as the public art within her own neighborhood. Maja let her know this was through the arts grant program and completed by local artist John Randall Nelson.

Commissioner Farling asked staff if the public art program intersects with human services projects such as shade structures. Staff shared that Public Art does work with transportation and sustainability often. Staff mentioned if they have specific ideas or groups that may be interested in public art, to send them to her directly.

Commissioner Simmons asked about the deadline for the arts grants. Maja let Commissioner Simmons know the deadline to submit is July 1. The review process will then take place, and awardees must utilize the money from September-June.

Commissioner FurQaan thanked Maja and Commissioner Swan for their time and asked how the HRC can better support TACC. Commissioner Swan asked HRC to advocate for arts programs within the city, and the schools. Commissioner Swan asked that they spread the word of the programs and various departments work.

### **Agenda Item 5 – Clerks Office Commission Training**

City Clerk Kara DeArrastia and Assistant City Attorney Clarence Matherson Jr. presented on the framework of Open Meeting Law, and how Commissioners shall conduct business within meetings. The City Clerk spoke about the duties and responsibilities of the Commissioners, as well as the roles and responsibilities of, and within, the meetings. HRC Staff Liaison Elena will forward additional materials to assist with following Open Meeting Law.

Commissioner Lindsay asked about mistakenly replying all in an email thread. Clarence let Commissioner Lindsay know if it was an honest mistake it's ok, but to avoid replying "all in all communications.

Assistant City Attorney Clarence Matherson Jr. spoke about the importance of following the agenda, and table additional items for future meetings. Speaking about topics not explicitly stated on the agenda is against Open Meeting Law.

Commissioner Lindsay asked about the previous Commissioner Swearing in process. Previously it was in person, and Commissioner Lindsay asked if this could be reinstated. Kara said it is in the works and will hopefully be in place by January of 2025.

Commissioner FurQaan thanked the staff for their time and expertise.

### **Agenda Item 6 – Unity Grant Committee Update + Discussion**

Dr. Humes notified the commission that there were no additional applications submitted applications and that the only grant awarded was to Tempe Union High School. Commissioners discussed the best way

to approach schools in the future, to better educate staff about this grant funding. Commissioner FurQaan asked about the remaining monies, to which Dr. Humes responded there is \$12,000 left to be awarded.

Commissioners discussed the possibility of awarding future applicants for the remaining funds. Commissioner Chan suggested revisiting the goals and timelines. Commissioners FurQaan, Sederstrom, and Farling will do a review of the grant.

### **Agenda Item 7 – Announcements**

- Elena reminded the commissioners of the Boards + Commission event.

### **Agenda Item 8 – Proposed Future Agenda Items**

- Commissioner Lindsay recommended a safety protocol discussion for the HRC.
- Commissioner Simmons recommended the review of rental amounts and workforce development.
- Commissioner Vawter asked for an update from Tempe PD surrounding public safety and community events.
- Commissioner Farling asked for a discussion on heat as a national disaster, as proposed by Mayor Gallego.

**Motion made by Commissioner Sederstrom to adjourn the meeting.**

**Second by Commissioner Chan.**

**Meeting adjourned at 7:55 PM.**

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Prepared by: Elena Hale

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Reviewed by: Velicia McMillan Humes