

Minutes Human Relations Commission February 8, 2022

Minutes of the HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION held on Tuesday, February 8, 2022, 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: +1 480-498-8745 United States, Phoenix (Toll), Conference ID: 936 327 717#

(MEMBERS) Present:

Michelle Donati-Grayman
Melissa Farling
Rabbanni Furqaan
Jana Lynn Granillo
William Ortega
Jeanne Powers
David Reynolds
Joe Rojas
Hugo Tapia
Kate Vawter

(MEMBERS) Absent:

Candyce Lindsay
Peggie Simmons

City Staff Present:

Jonae Harrison, Equity & Inclusion Manager
Megan Hutchison, Executive Assistant to CMO

Guests:

Raquel Gutierrez
Hannah Belec
Kelsi Dewaard

Call to Order

Acting Chair Donati-Grayman called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

Agenda Item 1 – Chair/Vice Chair Election

Acting Chair Donati-Grayman opened the floor for the nominations of Chair and Vice Chair.

Commissioner Vawter nominated Commissioner Tapia as Chair.

Commissioner Granillo seconded the nomination of Commissioner Tapia for Chair.

Commissioner Tapia accepted the nomination for Chair.

Commissioner Tapia spoke to the Commission on why he felt he would be the best person for the position of HRC Chair. The Commission voted and the final vote for Chair was: 9 – 0 vote Ayes: Acting Chair Donati-Grayman and Commissioners Melissa Farling, Rabbanni Furqaan, Jana Lynn Granillo, Will Ortega, David Reynolds, Joe Rojas, Hugo Tapia, and Kate Vawter. Absent: Commissioners Peggie Simmons and Candyce Lindsay.

Commissioner Tapia will be the new HRC Chair starting in March 2022.

Commissioner Vawter nominated Commissioner Ortega as Vice Chair.

Commissioner Granillo seconded the nomination of Commissioner Ortega for Vice Chair.

Commissioner Ortega accepted the nomination for Vice Chair.

Commissioner Rojas nominated Acting Chair Donati-Grayman for Vice Chair.

(Clerks Note: The motion failed due to lack of a second to the motion.)

Commissioner Donati-Grayman accepted the nomination of Vice Chair.

Each nominated Commissioner spoke to the Commission on why they felt they would be the best person for the position of HRC Vice Chair. The Commission voted and the final vote for Vice Chair was: 5 votes for Commissioner Ortega and 4 votes for Acting Chair Donati-Grayman. Votes for Commissioner Ortega: Commissioners Hugo Tapia, Jana Lynn Granillo, Melissa Farling, Will Ortega, and Acting Chair Michelle Donati-Grayman. Votes for Acting Chair Donati-Grayman: Commissioners David Reynolds, Kate Vawter, Joe Rojas, and Rabbanni Furqaan. Absent: Commissioners Peggie Simmons and Candyce Lindsay. Commissioner Ortega will be the new HRC Vice Chair starting in March 2022.

Agenda Item 2 – Public Appearances

Kelsi Dewaard is joining as part of a class assignment.

Agenda Item 3 – Consideration of Minutes: HRC – December 14, 2021

Motion made by Commissioner Farling to approve the meeting minutes of December 14, 2021; Second by Commissioner Donati-Grayman. Motion passed on an 9-0 vote. Ayes: Chair Tapia, Vice Chair Ortega, and Commissioners Michelle Donati-Grayman, Melissa Farling, Rabbanni Furqaan, Jana Lynn Granillo, David Reynolds, Joe Rojas, and Kate Vawter. Nays: None. Absent: Commissioner Peggie Simmons and Candyce Lindsay.

Agenda Item 4 – Presentation: Belonging Dialogues, Raquel Gutierrez

Chair Tapia introduced Raquel Gutierrez to the Commission. Raquel thanked the Commission for the invitation. She then shared her PowerPoint presentation, see attached. She then opened the floor for questions.

The Commission asked about the upcoming Belonging Dialogues events: Is there a time frame on when they will start, what will be the venue, how long will the sessions be, and are there any incentives to get people to attend? Raquel answered that they are looking to begin in March/April and will be done in a place-based way which means in neighborhoods with food being served and lasting approximately 1 ½ hours. They are also planning on hosting a much larger gathering to include everyone from the smaller gatherings.

The Commission then asked how they could, as a Commission, reach a younger audience and if there were talks of taking the Belonging Dialogues into the high schools to continue the conversations. Raquel responded that that would be a great way to engage the youth and once their current structure has been established, they can start to look at expanding the program into schools.

The Commission inquired if there was anything in place to track progress made after the Dialogues. Raquel let the Commission know that they have not discussed tracking progress yet and that it would not

be difficult to create since she already has indicators in place that she currently uses. She can propose those to the Commission, and they can decide which they would like to employ.

Jonae let the Commission know that if they are interested in volunteering, they should send her an email.

The Commission thanked Raquel for her time.

Agenda Item 5 – Update: Dolores Huerta Day of Social Justice and Advocacy

Jonae Harrison let the Commission know that Chicanos Por La Casa will be sponsoring two \$1,000 scholarships this year and that TD Synnex is also thinking of sponsoring a scholarship. She then let the Commission know that she will need volunteers for both the selection of the scholarship winners and for Dolores Huerta day. Commissioners Vawter, Donati-Grayman, and Ortega volunteered to assist with the choosing of the scholarship winners and Chair Tapia and Commissioner Reynolds volunteered to help during the Dolores Huerta day event.

Agenda Item 6 – Update: State of the Neighborhoods Event

Chair Tapia presented Hannah Belec to the Commission. Hannah thanked the Commission for the invitation and introduced herself as the Chair of Tempe’s Neighborhood Advisory Commission. She wanted to let the Commission know about the upcoming Neighborhood Celebration on March 26, 8:30 a.m. at Fiesta Ramada in Kiwanis Park. This year they are doing things a bit differently and the event will be more interactive. Other Tempe Commission are invited to attend the tabling event from 9:30 – 10:30 a.m. This will be a great place to make connections and promote their Commissions. She extended an invitation to the HRC and recommended two Commissioners attend. She then opened the floor to questions.

The Commission thanked Hannah for the information and the invitation.

Commissioners Ortega and Reynolds volunteered to staff a table at the event.

Agenda Item 7 – Proposed Future Agenda Items

Chair Tapia let the Commission know that there were no items discussed earlier in the meeting. He then opened the floor for recommendations. Items are: HRC Budget presentation, Homeless Youth presentation, Invitation to Dr. Driscoll – Tempe Elementary School District Superintendent, and Invitation to Clifford Moon – TUHSD Coordinator of Diversity & Inclusion. Chair Tapia let the Commission know that if they have any additional items they would like added to future agendas, they should contact Jonae Harrison or Megan Hutchison.

Agenda Item 8 – Upcoming Meeting – Tuesday, March 8, 2022

Meeting will be on Tuesday, March 8, 2022

Motion made by Commissioner Reynolds to adjourn the meeting

Second by Commissioner Rojas

Meeting adjourned at 7:43 p.m.

Prepared by: Megan Hutchison

Reviewed by: Jonae Harrison