



**CITY OF SCOTTSDALE
HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING**

MINUTES

Monday, September 12, 2022

Community Design Studio Nave
7506 E Indian School Rd
Scottsdale, AZ 85251

PRESENT: Emily Hinchman, Chair
Janice Shimokubo, Vice Chair
James Eaneman
Marty Day
Hannellie Mendoza
Stuart Rhoden

STAFF: Jackie Johnson, Diversity Program Director
Dale Wiebusch, Government Relations Director
Jennifer Wong-Ortiz, Community Engagement & Outreach Coordinator
Kelly Corsette, Communications/Public Affairs Director
Kacey Short, Bloomberg Harvard Fellow

Call to Order/Roll Call

Chair Hinchman called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m.

Members present as listed above.

Land Acknowledgement

Public Comment

There were no members of the public who wished to speak.

1. Approval of minutes from the August 8, 2022 meeting

Vice-Chair Shimokubo asked that on page 3, Chief Walther's statement include that the department has expanded its relationship with SUSD and the Cave Creek Unified School District.

COMMISSIONER DAY MOVED TO APPROVE THE AUGUST 8, 2022 HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES AS AMENDED. VICE-CHAIR SHIMOKUBO SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED SIX (6) TO ZERO (0). CHAIR HINCHMAN, VICE-CHAIR SHIMOKUBO, COMMISSIONERS DAY, EANEMAN, MENDOZA, AND RHODEN VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

2. Presentation and discussion regarding Global Ties Arizona and the delegation from Israel presented by Kristin Allen, Executive Director, Global Ties Arizona

Kristin Allen, Executive Director, Global Ties Arizona, gave a brief presentation about Global Ties Arizona, which is the implementing organization in the Valley for the International Visitor Leadership Program, run by the U.S. Department of State. The international visitor leadership program is our country's premiere professional exchange program, bringing in emerging and current leaders from all round the world for diplomatic connections and to foster democracy abroad. Ms. Allen introduced five delegates from Israel who hold positions within the Israeli government.

3. Presentation, discussion and possible recommendations regarding programs and services offered at Scottsdale Public Library

Jennifer Wong-Ortiz, Community Engagement and Outreach Coordinator, gave an overview of the various Scottsdale Public Library branches, library resources, and library-sponsored activities. Scottsdale library offers free library cards to Scottsdale residents; zero late fees; automatic renewal of materials; free Wi-Fi access; and free children's, teen, and adult, and family-focused programs. She highlighted the activities of the Teen Advisory Group, the Second-Grade Card campaign, and literacy-links program and noted that the library's strategic plan includes a focus on infusing diversity, equity, and inclusion into their programs.

Commissioners were given an opportunity to ask questions. Ms. Wong-Ortiz said that suggestions for physical book purchases can be made through the City of Scottsdale public library website under "services/suggest a purchase." E-books can be suggested through the Greater Phoenix Digital Library website. She noted that September is National Library signup month and that the City will be sponsoring a library card holder celebration event in November.

4. Update and discussion regarding the State of Arizona Legislative Session

Dale Wiebusch, Government Relations Director, gave a presentation highlighting the upcoming elections and initiatives that will be on the upcoming ballot. He noted that all state and federal candidates are listed on the Secretary of State's website. He outlined the City of Scottsdale's three legislative districts and noted that although Arizona still has a strong Republican majority there are a high number of voters who are registered as independent, which makes it difficult to make predictions. Pollsters have said that statewide races are too close to call. Mr. Wiebusch gave an overview of initiatives and referenda that will be on the November ballot.

Commissioners were given an opportunity to ask questions. Mr. Wiebusch said that there has been an increase in voter registration since the passing of the Dobbs Decision in the Supreme Court, which repealed Roe vs. Wade. He explained that ESA voucher expansion will not be on the November 2022 ballot. If sufficient signatures for the ESA voucher expansion are received by the September 24, 2022 deadline, the law will be suspended and will be put on the ballot in the next general election.

5. Presentation, discussion and possible recommendations regarding the September 2022 Scottsdale Community Engagement Report

Kacey Short, Bloomberg Harvard Fellow, gave an overview of the National Community Survey and the Community Engagement project findings. She said that overall, participants are proud of the city, think it is beautiful, love the cleanliness of the city, and want to live in Scottsdale for the long term. Respondents would like to see changes regarding social interactions surrounding respect and inclusion. She said that she made recommendations to the Executive Team last week and will make separate recommendations to City Council. Recommendations for the Human Relations Commission included:

- Suggesting to City Council and the Executive Team that an external diversity, equity, and inclusion consultant be hired to do audits and assessments of the current state of the city and how City departments could better integrate initiatives currently being worked on in silos.
- Human Relations Commission make an effort to better engage with the community by participating in public events and building personal relationships and trust with the community. Ms. Short suggested participating in morning coffee meetings at Paiute Neighborhood Center, hosting "Meet the HRC" events at southern Scottsdale parks, and participating in the Storytime series at the public libraries.
- Coordinating free or affordable multi-cultural events in the southern Scottsdale area. She suggested having a booth at different citywide events, hosting a concert series to highlight local musicians and artists, hosting a "First Fridays" event similar to the one in Phoenix; hosting a "Food Truck Fridays."

Commissioners were given an opportunity to ask questions. Ms. Johnson said that it is common practice to hire an external consultant to do an organizational assessment, determine where there are gaps, and offer strategic solutions. Discussions are ongoing between staff and the City manager's office regarding the possibility of hiring a consultant. Brief discussion ensued regarding ways in which the government could play a role in changing the culture of the city.

Ms. Short said that her recommendations to City Council will include that priority be given to fostering minority businesses and establishing minority diversity initiatives. She noted that participants indicated that their preferred method of being informed about events and activities is through social media and in coordination with outside multicultural organizations. They indicated a preference for video communication versus written communication.

Commissioners expressed an interest in receiving a copy of Ms. Short's entire report. It was suggested that the Commission agendaize a discussion surrounding the Community Engagement findings.

6. Presentation, update and discussion regarding the purpose and accomplishments of the Scottsdale Human Relations Commission

The item was tabled.

7. Presentation, discussion and possible recommendations regarding the Human Relations Commission's 2022 Strategic Initiatives

Chair Hinchman briefly talked about the Regional HRC meeting held in Chandler last week. Vice-Chair Shimokubo suggested that the Commission revisit the "Scottsdale Stories" program.

8. Update and discussion regarding the upcoming vacancy and appointment of a new Human Relations Commissioner

Ms. Johnson announced that Commissioner Shojaee has given her resignation effective immediately, leaving the Commission with two vacancies. City Council is expected to hold interviews and make appointments in October.

9. Update, discussion and possible recommendations regarding recent and upcoming diversity and inclusion-related activities and incidents impacting the city of Scottsdale

Ms. Johnson reviewed upcoming community and employee events sponsored by the Diversity Advisory Committee, which include:

- United Business Diversity Summit – September 14, 2022
- Community Celebrating Diversity Dinner and Dialogue – September 29, 2022
- Phoenix Pride Parade – October 16, 2022
- Arizona Asian Festival – October 22, 2022
- Scottsdale Dia de Los Muertos- Fiesta de Muertos y Danza – October 22, 2022
- Scottsdale Dia de Los Muertos at Old Adobe Mission – October 31 – November 2, 2022
- Canal Convergence – November 4 – 13, 2022
- Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration – January 2023
- Regional Unity Walk – January 21, 2023
- Mayor's Ability Awards – April 13, 2023
- Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration – September 15 – October 15, 2022
- Hispanic Heritage Month lunch and Learn – October 6, 2022
- Dia de Los Muertos Lunch and Learn – October 13, 2022

The City of Scottsdale has been granted the opportunity to have more than the 75 participants limit in the Phoenix Pride Parade. Scottsdale Fire Department will be participating this year; however, because of restrictions that would prevent Scottsdale Police Department from being able to represent who they are, they will not participate this year.

Ms. Johnson reminded the Commission that discussion needs to be had to determine which events they would like to attend and whether tables should be purchased at approximately \$2,500 per event, or if it would better further the HRC mission if they focus on participating in events and enhancing relationships.

10. Identification of Future Agenda Items

Upcoming meetings will include:

- Presentation from Stanna Slater
- Workshop discussion
- Discussion about diversity partners

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 10, 2022.

11. Adjournment

COMMISSIONER EANEMAN MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. COMMISSIONER RHODEN SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED SIX (6) TO ZERO (0). CHAIR HINCHMAN, VICE-CHAIR SHIMOKUBO, COMMISSIONERS DAY, EANEMAN, MENDOZA, AND RHODEN VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

With no further business to discuss, being duly moved and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 6:41 p.m.

Recorded and Transcribed by eScribers, LLC.