



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

MINUTES

Monday, September 11, 2023

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

PRESENT: Emily Hinchman, Chair
James Eaneman, Vice Chair
Tina Drews
Matthew Keen
Janice Shimokubo

ABSENT: Cynthia Romagnolo

STAFF: Jackie Johnson, Diversity Program Director
Dale Wiebusch, Government Relations Director
Stanna Slater, LGBT Liaison

Call to Order

Chair Hinchman called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Roll Call

Members present as listed above.

Land Acknowledgement

Public Comment

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

1. Approval of the Regular Meeting Minutes for August 14, 2023

COMMISSIONER EANEMAN MOVED TO APPROVE THE AUGUST 14, 2023 HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES. COMMISSIONER KEEN SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED FIVE (5) TO ZERO (0). CHAIR HINCHMAN, VICE-CHAIR EANEMAN, COMMISSIONERS DREWS, KEEN, AND SHIMOKUBO VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

2. Update, discussion and possible recommendations regarding diversity-related bills considered during the State of Arizona Legislative Session and the city's legislative agenda

Dale Weibush, Government Relations Director, noted that there have been a lot of changes in the Governor's office and hearings on the Governor's appointments for various state agencies are expected to resume soon. He talked about the 2024 City of Scottsdale legislative agenda, including the process for soliciting input from Commissioners, City staff, and department managers before reporting individually to City Council members prior to the Council vote on legislative items. In a meeting with Chair Hinchman, there was discussion about the Commission having its own section with a statement of support as well as an opposition statement.

Discussion ensued regarding the potential for a separate title and the addition of DEIB language in the culture of the City, which could be titled "Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging." Commissioners were in agreement to move forward with development of a statement.

3. Update and possible recommendations regarding a community engagement partnership with Scottsdale Public Library

Commissioner Drews updated the Commission on efforts to form a community engagement partnership with the library. She has not had an opportunity to meet with library staff yet, but has requested a copy of their community engagement plan. Discussion ensued regarding the possibility of collaboration with the Library Board instead of library staff. It was noted that a meeting with more than two library board members would constitute a meeting under the Open Meeting Law. Commissioner Drews will continue to reach out to library staff.

4. Discussion and possible recommendations regarding Indigenous Peoples' Day

Commissioners discussed the idea of making a formal recommendation that City Council consider declaring Columbus Day as Indigenous Peoples' Day and the implications it could have on employee holidays. Mr. Stockwell will be consulted on the topic and further discussion about drafting a recommendation to City Council be agendaized for a future meeting.

5. Update, discussion and possible recommendations regarding reported hate crimes and bias related incidents

Commissioner Eaneman said that there has been no further communication with the police department regarding reported hate crimes and bias related incidents. He suggested that the Commission wait to see what is forthcoming from the police department and use that information to decide on next steps.

6. Update, discussion and possible recommendations regarding the Human Relations Commission's Strategic Initiatives

Commissioner Keen gave a report on his communication with Dr. Menzel at Scottsdale Unified School District (SUSD). Dr. Menzel was supportive, however he noted that students in public schools cannot be surveyed. Dr. Menzel provided contact information for a person who runs boards for SUSD and has in the past organized a DEI-centered board. Commissioner Keen will follow up with the District and provide additional information at a future meeting.

7. Update and discussion regarding the appointment of new Human Relations Commissioners

Ms. Johnson announced that Commissioner Shimokubo's term expires on October 6th. City Council will be appointing two new Commissioners during their meeting on October 10, 2023, starting at 3:00 p.m.

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

Ms. Johnson announced that Hispanic Heritage Month is September 15 through October 15. The city has a Hispanic employee network group who are working to host an employee event on October 30, 2023.

Ms. Johnson said the city is purchasing a table for the One Community luncheon and the Silver and Turquoise Ball. City of Scottsdale will also be partnering with Communities Celebrating Diversity to support a scholarship event hosted by the MLK Diversity Champion from January of this year.

A Community Partners meeting is scheduled for September 14. Approximately 50 people have signed up to attend. The event is a great opportunity to hear from the community on ways to collaborate. Ms. Johnson noted that the cultural calendar has been completed, but she accidentally sent the global calendar to the graphic designer, so a decision needs to be made whether to use the global calendar or a localized calendar for posting to the City's website.

Brief discussion ensued about whether the city should participate in the Unity Walk in January of 2024. It was noted that the next Regional Human Relations meeting will be in November. Further discussion about the Unity Walk will be agendaized for a future meeting.

9. Identification of Future Agenda Items

Upcoming meetings could include:

- Discussion about making Indigenous Peoples' Day a city holiday
- Partnering with the Library
- Strategic Initiatives
- SUSD partnership

Ms. Johnson thanked Commissioner Shimokubo for her years of service.
The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 9, 2023.

Adjournment

COMMISSIONER DREWS MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. COMMISSIONER EANEMAN SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED FIVE (5) TO ZERO (0). CHAIR HINCHMAN, VICE-CHAIR EANEMAN, COMMISSIONERS DREWS, KEEN, AND SHIMOKUBO VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

With no further business to discuss, being duly moved and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 5:59 p.m.

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