



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

Monday, May 13, 2024

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

PRESENT: Tina Drews, Chair
Cynthia Romagnolo, Vice Chair
Ashley Adams
Emily Hinchman (MS Teams)

STAFF: Jackie Johnson, Diversity Program Director
Greg Caton, Assistant City Manager
Dale Wiebusch, Government Relations Director

Call to Order

Chair Hinchman called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m.

Roll Call

Members present as listed above.

Land Acknowledgement

Public Comment

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

1. Approval of the Specialty Meeting Minutes for March 4, 2024

COMMISSIONER ADAMS MOVED TO APPROVE THE MARCH 4, 2024 HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES. VICE-CHAIR ROMAGNOLO SECONDED THE MOTION. NO VOTE WAS TAKEN. THERE WERE NO COMMISSIONERS WHO EXPRESSED OPPOSITION.

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 Wiebusch, Government Relations Director, gave a presentation outlining the legislative process, recent activities at the State Legislature, and ways individuals can stay informed. He briefly talked about special projects that have been put in place over the past year and noted that they are in a \$1.8 billion deficit for this fiscal year and next year combined, which has resulted in the governor ruling that the state will be in a period of no new hires and no raises for state employees at this time. These rulings are across the board. It was also noted that the primary date has been moved to a week earlier, July 30.

Mr. Wiebusch highlighted bills related to diversity, equity, and inclusion. He noted that SB 1005 is the same, verbatim, as the bill introduced last year, which would prohibit public entities from requiring or spending public monies on diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) programs and prohibits public entities from entering into a contract with a company that participates in a DEI program. The bill cleared the Senate and is sitting in the House; however, he suspects it could end up being a tradeoff bill. SB 1195 is similar in that it prescribes a plethora of prohibited uses of public monies. This bill cleared the Senate and is sitting in the house and will likely not move forward. SCR 1015 is the same as SB 1195 but is subject to voter approval. HCR 2056 is an anti-affirmative action bill that will be considered in Senate Elections on May 16, 2024. HCR 2060, going to the Senate on May 14, 2024, is similar to SB 1070 and would give local law enforcement authority to enforce immigration law. It also outlines penalties for the sale of fentanyl. Mr. Wiebusch talked about the abortion controversy issue. He explained the process for the repeal of the 1864 law to go into effect.

Commissioners were given an opportunity to ask questions. Mr. Wiebusch explained that HCR 2060 will go to a Committee as a whole to solidify amendments in order to satisfy issues of dissent from the Prescott senator. He said that the abortion bill has received 700,000 signatures and will likely be going on the ballot. He said that there is still an opportunity for individuals who are registered to weigh in on these bills. He noted that he and Luis Santaella, a city attorney, are the registered lobbyists for the City. City Council members and the police chief would be able to sign in with their opinion as individuals but would not speak as representatives of the City.

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

Jackie Johnson, Diversity Program Director, said that six applicants were invited to participate in city council interviews; interviews are scheduled for May 14, 2024. She anticipates that appointments will be made to fill the three HRC vacancies in time for the June meeting. Commissioners are able to email City Council members individually if they have any input to provide on applicants.

4. Discussion and possible recommendations regarding a land acknowledgement plaque to honor Indigenous People

Ms. Johnson recalled that, in November 2023, the Commission had discussion about forwarding a recommendation to City Council that they read a land acknowledgement before each meeting. As a result of discussions with Assistant City Manager Stockwell and the Mayor's assistant, it was decided to forego that recommendation. Further discussion was had about utilizing the current employee floating holiday to recognize Indigenous People's Day and/or to recommend that an acknowledgement plaque be placed at City Hall.

Discussion ensued regarding the steps required to place an Indigenous People's Day recognition plaque at City Hall. Ms. Johnson explained that placement of a plaque would require support of the City Manager and City Council members but should not require a Council vote. Commissioners expressed an interest in agendizing further discussion about recognizing Indigenous People's Day as part of the current employee floating holiday and a recommendation to City Council regarding reading the land acknowledgement statement, including the new assistant city manager and new Commission members.

VICE-CHAIR ROMAGNOLO MOVED TO RECOMMEND THAT A LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT PLAQUE TO HONOR INDIGENOUS PEOPLE BE INSTALLED IN A PROMINENT LOCATION AT CITY HALL. COMMISSIONER ADAMS SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED FOUR (4) TO ZERO (0). CHAIR DREWS, VICE-CHAIR ROMAGNOLO, COMMISSIONER ADAMS AND HINCHMAN VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

5. Discussion and possible action regarding updating the purpose statement and renaming the Human Relations Commission

Ms. Johnson gave an overview of the prior HRC discussion regarding renaming the Commission to the "Human Rights Advisory Commission" and updating the purpose statement as part of that process. Commissioners agreed to table the discussion in

order to allow for new Assistant City Manager Greg Caton and the incoming Commissioners to participate in the discussion.

ITEM TABLED.

6. Discussion and possible recommendations regarding partnership opportunities with Valley of the Sun Jewish Community Center

Commissioner Adams reported that she recently reached out to the director of operations at the Valley of the Sun Jewish Community Center, who expressed interest in exploring opportunities to partner with the Human Relations Commission. Commissioners talked about the perception of partnering with a specific organization but agreed that it was a good idea to look at opportunities to work with organizations that reflect diversity. Ms. Johnson shared that the Diversity Office has quarterly community partner meetings, and invites various organizations to participate and network. She would be happy to add the Jewish Community Center to the community partners list and invite them to participate in the quarterly meeting. She anticipates that the Diversity Office quarterly meeting will be in August. Ms. Johnson said that the Jewish Community Center could be invited also to attend an HRC meeting either to observe or to give a presentation.

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

Chair Drews gave an update on the success of the recent event hosted at the Library. She reviewed things that could be improved moving forward, suggesting that marketing efforts be increased and that future Library partner events be held at the Design Studio. Vice-Chair Romagnolo commented on the event and said she could see how connections across the community could be used to continue driving more events to the Library. Ms. Johnson suggested that a virtual option be considered for future events. She said that she has had good experience hosting events at the Western Spirit Museum of the West venue.

Ms. Johnson announced that the ADA Title VI Coordinator for the Diversity Office has been selected and will start on May 28, 2024.

On May 7, 2024, the City partnered with Mayo Clinic to host a neurodiversity panel lunch-and-learn at Western Spirit Museum of the West. Part two of the series is scheduled for June 25, 2024, and will focus on neurodiversity in the work place and how to manage employees.

Ms. Johnson has reached out to the Scottsdale Pride employee resource group to see if they are planning anything for Pride Month during the month of June and is waiting for a response. She noted that the City is talking with Honor Health about partnering with the City to plan some sort of Pride Month recognition.

The Juneteenth Celebration is scheduled for June 15, 2024. To date, there are approximately 13 sponsors and \$47,000 has been raised in sponsorship money. Mayo Clinic will be the presenting sponsor and their presentation will focus on cancer in the black community. Invitations to the event will be sent to other City of Scottsdale Commissions and the City Clerk will post notice of possible quorum for those who wish to attend. Ms. Johnson noted that the Arizona Historical Society is hosting a Juneteenth event on Sunday, June 16th, and is including the City's event in their promotional materials. Commissioners were interested in having more rotation at the Human Relations Commission table, so Commissioners who are volunteering have the opportunity to participate in the event.

8. Identification of Future Agenda Items

Chair Drews said she would be out of town for the June 10th meeting and asked about the process for rescheduling the meeting so she could be in attendance for the new commissioners first meeting. Ms. Johnson will communicate with Commissioners regarding the meeting schedule.

Upcoming meetings could include:

- Follow up on renaming the Commission and possible update of the purpose statement
- Follow up on land acknowledgement recommendations, including moving forward with an acknowledgement plaque
- Presentation about purpose and duties of the Commission

Next meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 10, 2024.

Adjournment

COMMISSIONER HINCHMAN MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. VICE-CHAIR ROMAGNOLO SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED FOUR (4) TO ZERO (0). CHAIR DREWS, VICE-CHAIR ROMAGNOLO, COMMISSIONERS ADAMS AND HINCHMAN VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

With no further business to discuss, being duly moved and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 6:23 p.m.

Recorded and Transcribed by eScribers, LLC.