



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

**Monday, June 9, 2025**

Community Design Studio  
7506 E. Indian School Road  
Scottsdale, AZ 85251

**PRESENT:** Tina Drews, Chair  
Cynthia Romagnolo, Vice Chair  
Ashley Adams  
Veronica Aguilar  
Mason Gates  
Shiry Sapir (MS Teams)

**ABSENT:** Muhammad Babur

**STAFF:** Kelly Corsette, Communications/Public Affairs Director

**Call to Order**

Chair Drews called the meeting to order at 5:03 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. Amended Regular Meeting Minutes from April 7, 2025**

Chair Drews said that Mr. Corsette has made her aware that the vote taken by the Commission during the April 7th meeting on the recommendation for City Council to reinstate the City's employee resource groups (ERGs) should have indicated that the motion did not pass. The Human Relations Commission's (HRC's) ordinance requires that four members of the Commission vote in favor of any action, regardless of the number of members present during the meeting. Because there were five members present and the vote was only had three supporting votes, the vote did not pass and needs to be amended to reflect that result.

Kelly Corsette, Communications/Public Affairs Director, explained that the ordinance allows for a meeting to proceed with a quorum of four members; however, it also requires that the majority of total members vote affirmatively in order to pass any action. He noted that he consulted with the City Clerk's office in consultation with the City's legal department, and the legal department interprets the ordinance as four aye votes to pass anything that goes before the Commission.

Discussion ensued with some Commissioners disagreeing with the interpretation.

Mr. Corsette explained that the rule was put in place when the HRC was created. Some boards and commissions have ordinances that do allow the majority of those present to pass a motion. He said that the City is currently working through a number of recommendations that have come forward regarding ERGs. Mr. Corsette agreed to acquire additional clarification regarding the interpretation of the ordinance from the City Attorney's office. Commissioners have the ability to reach out as individuals if they would like further explanation.

Chair Drews requested that a discussion and action item on ERGs be agendaized for a future meeting.

COMMISSIONER GATES MOVED TO APPROVE THE AMENDED MEETING MINUTES FROM APRIL 7, 2025. VICE-CHAIR ROMAGNOLO SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED SIX (6) TO ZERO (0). CHAIR DREWS, VICE-CHAIR ROMAGNOLO, COMMISSIONERS ADAMS, AGUILAR, GATES, AND SAPIR VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

## **2. Approval of the Regular Meeting Minutes from May 12, 2025**

Commissioner Adams said that although she attended the meeting virtually, she was unable to hear and eventually logged off, so she should have been counted as absent.

COMMISSIONER AGUILAR MOVED TO APPROVE THE MAY 12, 2025 HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES AS AMENDED. COMMISSIONER GATES SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED SIX (6) TO ZERO (0). CHAIR DREWS, VICE-CHAIR ROMAGNOLO, COMMISSIONERS ADAMS, AGUILAR, GATES, AND SAPIR VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

### **3. Discussion, recommendations, and possible action regarding the Human Relations Commission's strategic plan**

Chair Drews recalled that she had asked Commissioners to focus on the Community Partnerships and Collaboration section of the strategic plan and return prepared to discuss partnerships they would like to explore and/or guests that could be invited to present to the Commission. She opened the floor to discussion.

Discussion ensued and the following ideas were recommended:

- Invite a representative from the Jewish Community Center to give a presentation discussing their objectives, with the goal of considering a future partnership.
- Follow up with representatives from Scottsdale Library about partnership opportunities and engage with the Library Board about partnering on community activities.
- Invite the City's Economic Development Director to give a presentation to the Commission and discuss ways in which the HRC can contribute, and to provide information regarding the benefits of employee resource groups to employers and to the economy

### **4. Identification of Future Agenda Items**

Mr. Corsette gave an update on the issue of ERGs within the City. He said that the current direction is that ERGs will be eliminated because they were organized and funded through the Office of Diversity. Clarifications have been made through a memo issued by the City, which Mr. Corsette will provide to Commissioners. The City intends to continue to participate in community celebrations and cultural recognitions of historical significance. The City will not sponsor a Juneteenth celebration, but individual departments such as the Library are able to continue with recognitions of the day.

Commissioner Gates requested that a member of the Scottsdale Unified School Board be invited to discuss the new curriculum, which he opines encompasses mildly polarizing topics. Mr. Corsette explained that the HRC's role is to advise the City Council on items affecting the community. Local government is a separate entity from the School Board and the City Council has no purview. He agreed to seek legal advice as to whether or not the HRC has the ability to officially weigh in on School Board activities.

Future agenda items could include:

- Presentation by the Jewish Community Center
- Presentation from Scottsdale's Economic Development Director
- Discussion regarding partnership opportunities with the Library and Library Board
- Discussion and action regarding employee resource groups
- Update on the June 26th sunset review
- Discussion about Human Relations Commissioners participating in podcasts

## **Adjournment**

COMMISSIONER GATES MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. COMMISSIONER AGUILAR SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED SIX (6) TO ZERO (0). CHAIR DREWS, VICE-CHAIR ROMAGNOLO, COMMISSIONERS ADAMS, AGUILAR, GATES, AND SAPIR VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

With no further business to discuss, being duly moved and seconded, the regular meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Recorded and Transcribed by eScribers, LLC