



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

MINUTES

Monday, June 14, 2021

Meeting Held Electronically

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

ABSENT: Emily Hinchman, Vice Chair
Lawdan Shojaee

STAFF: Sharon Cini
Kelly Corsette
Brent Stockwell
Stanna Slater

GUESTS: Jeff Walther, City of Scottsdale Police Chief

Call to Order/Roll Call

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

Members present as listed above.

Public Comment

No public comments were submitted.

1. Approval of minutes from the May 10, 2021 meeting

COMMISSIONER EANEMAN MOVED TO APPROVE THE MAY 10, 2021 HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES. COMMISSIONER DAY SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED FIVE (5) TO ZERO (0) BY ROLL CALL VOTE. CHAIR SHIMOKUBO, COMMISSIONERS DAY, EANEMAN, MENDOZA, AND RHODEN VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

2. Read Proclamation from Mayor David D. Ortega recognizing June 2021 as Pride Month in Scottsdale

Ms. Cini read the proclamation from Mayor David D. Ortega recognizing June 2021 as Pride month in Scottsdale into the record.

Stanna Slater, LGBT liaison, reported on recent Pride Month activities. This morning, June 14, 2021, a ceremony was held to celebrate the raising of the Pride Flag at Scottsdale City Hall. Ms. Slater attended the event along with Mayor Ortega and Council members. The flag will be displayed until June 21, 2021.

Ms. Slater said that in conjunction with Mayor Ortega's proclamation, the City's public affairs supervisor issued a news release about the proclamation and Pride Month activities. Ms. Slater and Mayor Ortega were quoted in the article.

3-TV and CBS-5 featured news segments about the recent vandalism and theft of Pride banners from North Scottsdale United Methodist Church. The broadcast focused on how the church has responded to the incident and their determination to continue to show their support for the LGBTQ community. During her interview, Ms. Slater highlighted the City's interest in taking steps to help strengthen equality in Scottsdale and mentioned that Scottsdale is a Golden Rule City.

Commissioners thanked Ms. Slater for all that she does to support the City of Scottsdale's LGBTQ community.

3. Presentation and discussion with Scottsdale's new police chief, Jeff Walther, regarding the Scottsdale Police Department vision and priorities

Chair Shimokubo noted that on May 27th, she, Vice-Chair Hinchman and Sharon Cini met with Chief Walther and his assistant chiefs to have a conversation about their vision for the police department.

Police Chief Jeff Walther spoke about new units being put in place within the police department and changes being made in terms of community engagement and leadership. One of the new units is the Human Exploitation Unit, which is an expansion of the program efforts to investigate internet crimes against children and human trafficking in Scottsdale. Scottsdale is particularly susceptible to these types of crimes in part due to the high number of events and tourist traffic that the city has. He noted that since rolling out the Human Exploitation Unit, he has had the opportunity to meet with other groups working to eradicate human trafficking in the city and in the state, including representatives from The Safe Action Project.

The Crisis Response Team is an expansion of the department's Police Crisis Intervention Services, which has been in place since 1975. The unit has masters-level counselors available and now offers crisis intervention training to officers. To date, approximately 140 officers have taken part in the 40-hour crisis intervention team training. The Crisis Response Team consists of a sergeant and four detectives who bridge the gap between PCIS and CIT with a three-tiered approach to dealing with people having a mental health crisis. Other Valley departments have reached out with interest in learning how to develop similar programs.

Chief Walther worked with the Communications and Public Affairs Department to expand the Police public information office. He mentioned that his podcast "Shop Talk with Chief Walther" will roll out soon.

Commissioners were given an opportunity to ask questions. Chief Walther explained that the human trafficking efforts are internal to the department and there is not at this time an opportunity for citizen involvement. He is happy to put persons interested in volunteering in touch with the right people within other organizations.

4. Presentation, discussion and possible recommendation(s) regarding the Commission's Strategic Plan and 2021 activities and updates

- Town Hall Sessions – Receive an update on the April 28, 2021 Town Hall and review the draft report. Discuss and make recommendations on future town hall sessions

Commissioner Rhoden gave a brief review of the draft report on the April 28, 2021 Town Hall. He talked about the importance of encouraging citizens to have uncomfortable diversity conversations in public and opined that it would be beneficial to have more town hall events. He suggested that town halls be scheduled for September and November of 2021 so that the conversations can continue.

Chair Shimokubo reiterated comments regarding the challenges of audience participation. She noted that more data should be gathered before presenting a summary of town hall conversations to City Council.

COMMISSIONER EANEMAN MOVED TO APPROVE SCHEDULING TWO MORE TOWN HALLS FOR THE FALL TIME FRAME. CHAIR SHIMOKUBO SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED FIVE (5) TO ZERO (0) BY ROLL CALL VOTE. CHAIR SHIMOKUBO, COMMISSIONERS DAY, EANEMAN, MENDOZA, AND RHODEN VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

- Marketing Messaging – Review the social media campaign and calendar and discuss and make recommendations on future social media efforts

Ms. Cini shared Facebook page posts.

- Enhanced Commissioner Involvement – Receive an update on the Scottsdale Independent article about commission members, and make recommendations on future efforts to increase Commissioner involvement in HRC events and campaigns

Chair Shimokubo thanked Vice-Chair Hinchman for facilitating and coordinating the Scottsdale Independent article that ran earlier in June.

- Identify Important Diversity Issues – Receive an update on focus group plans and make recommendations on next steps

Ms. Cini said that staff have reviewed the focus group proposal and have an additional meeting scheduled to get into more details. Staff have communicated with Assistant City Manager Stockwell and Communications and Public Affairs Director Kelly Corsette about ways to identify things that could supplement areas within the proposal, researching resources to help develop focus groups and identify participants, and opportunities to integrate gaps identified in the national community survey into the Town Halls. She noted that the Diversity Office has approximately \$5,000 allocated to current projects. Those funds would need to be reallocated to enable moving forward with the focus groups.

- City relationships – Receive an update on meetings involving City departments and next steps

Chair Shimokubo said that efforts are being made to meet with different City departments to promote diversity and build relationships. Currently, they are working towards scheduling meetings with Human Services and SUSD.

5. Presentation, discussion and possible recommendation(s) regarding Land Acknowledgement statement

Chair Shimokubo gave some background of the idea of a land acknowledgement statement. She said that many public meetings start out with a public land acknowledgement statement and opined that it would be appropriate for the Human Relations Commission.

CHAIR SHIMOKUBO MOVED TO INCORPORATE A LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT STATEMENT AT THE BEGINNING OF HRC MEETINGS STARTING WITH THE NEXT MEETING. COMMISSIONER EANEMAN SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED FIVE (5) TO ZERO (0) BY ROLL CALL VOTE. CHAIR SHIMOKUBO, COMMISSIONERS DAY, EANEMAN, MENDOZA, AND RHODEN VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

6. Updates, discussion, and possible recommendation(s) to staff regarding recent and upcoming diversity and inclusion related activities and incidents impacting the city of Scottsdale

- A glimpse into the 70th Anniversary events – Updates since last meeting

Mr. Corsette gave an update on City of Scottsdale 70th Anniversary events. He said that the 70th anniversary of incorporation is June 25, 2021. Celebration activities include a presentation of Scottsdale's history by Joan Fudala at Civic Center Library on June 23, 2021 and a scavenger hunt "Legacy Quest" in Old Town on June 25, 2021. Both events are free to the public; however, people are asked to register for the scavenger hunt. Both events are being held with COVID precautions in mind.

- Reminder of the Scottsdale Juneteenth Celebration/Generation BLK, Saturday, June 19, 2021

Ms. Cini announced that Scottsdale Juneteenth Celebration/Generation BLK will be held at McCormick-Stillman Railroad Park on June 18, 2021 from 2:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Everyone is invited to attend the free, family-friendly event.

- Upcoming Pride Month Celebration event – “Stronger Together” with Arizona Theatre Company in partnership with Scottsdale Fashion Square, Phoenix Pride, Stem Swag, and Wonder Spaces

Ms. Cini announced that Phoenix Pride is hosting a Pride Month celebration in conjunction with Arizona Theatre Company, Stem Swag, and Wonder Spaces at Fashion Square on Thursday, June 17, 2021. Ms. Cini, Mayor Ortega, and Stanna Slater have been invited to make remarks about Scottsdale’s inclusive community.

- Burden Basket Walk on Monday, June 21, 2021 – An overview involving a culturally significant gesture with Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community

Ms. Cini announced that the Burden Basket Walk will take place on Monday, June 21, 2021. The event is being held in honor of the O’odham tradition of walking from Salt River-Pima Maricopa Indian community to the Old Basket House, which is now the Mexican Import to trade. The last time the Burden Basket Walk was held was over 100 years ago. The walk will begin at 4:00 a.m. and will conclude in front of the Little Red School House. Those who are interested can find additional information on the City’s website, search Kia-Hawalk/burden basket.

7. Identification of Future Agenda Items

The next meeting is scheduled for August 9, 2021.

Adjournment

COMMISSIONER EANEMAN MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. COMMISSIONER DAY SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED FIVE (5) TO ZERO (0). 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 6:12 p.m.

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