



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

MINUTES

Monday, March 13, 2023

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

PRESENT: Emily Hinchman, Chair
James Eaneman, Vice Chair
Tina Drews
Matthew Keen
Stuart Rhoden
Cynthia Romagnolo
Janice Shimokubo (MS Teams)

STAFF: Jackie Johnson, Diversity Program Director
Brent Stockwell, Assistant City Manager
Stanna Slader, LGBT Liaison (MS Teams)

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 who wished to speak.

1. Approval of the Regular Meeting Minutes for February 13, 2023

COMMISSIONER EANEMAN MOVED TO APPROVE THE FEBRUARY 13, 2023 HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES. COMMISSIONER DREWS SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED SEVEN (7) TO ZERO (0). CHAIR HINCHMAN, VICE-CHAIR EANEMAN, COMMISSIONERS DREWS, KEEN, RHODEN, ROMAGNOLO, AND SHIMOKUBO VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

1A. Introduction of new Human Relations Commissioner Cynthia Romagnolo

Chair Hinchman welcomed Cynthia Romagnolo to the Commission.

2. Presentation, discussion, and possible recommendations regarding Partners for Paiute presented by Raoul Zubia, Partners for Paiute Board Member

Raoul Zubia, President of Partners for Paiute, gave a presentation about what Partners for Paiute does. His presentation included a review of the history of Paiute Neighborhood Center, the 1994 formation of Partners for Paiute, and the organizations that were originally housed on the Paiute campus. Partners for Paiute was formed for the purpose of raising money to help the organizations on the Paiute campus, so when the campus demographics changed, Partners for Paiute changed focus to begin looking at other types of assistance they could give to the City as a whole. The organization now works exclusively with Scottsdale social workers, receiving referrals to help individuals in need who have exhausted other avenues for help. Examples of assistance the organization has provided include rent/utility assistance, furniture, paying for eye exams and glasses, and purchasing scooters.

Commissioners discussed ways in which the Commission could help Partners for Paiute and help with promoting the donation opportunity. Mr. Zubia said that since Covid, they no longer have the breakfast fundraiser, and instead have started holding periodic gatherings. Partners for Paiute is the beneficiary of money raised through State of the City luncheon ticket sales and also qualifies for the 501(c)3 tax credit program. Persons interested in donating can go to PartnersforPaiute.org. Commissioners talked about marketing Partners through Paiute through the City's website. Mr. Stockwell highlighted the Community Programs section of the Scottsdale website and suggested that Partners for Paiute could be listed as a nonprofit organization under that heading at Scottsdaleaz.gov/Scottsdalshares.

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

Extensive discussion ensued about the importance of diversifying members of City of Scottsdale boards and commissions. Mr. Stockwell suggested that one way to address the concern would be for the Commission to send City Council a letter stating that the Commission noticed that there could be more diversity among members being appointed. The Commission could offer to assist if Council is interested in further recommendations regarding diversity among board and commission appointees. He recalled that approximately 15 years ago a study on gender and diversity on boards and commissions was conducted and results were shared with Mayor and Council. Commissioners continued the discussion about how to word a letter to City Council, how to market commission and board opportunities to a diverse citizenry, and how to provide

more information on the application and interview process and responsibilities once appointed.

COMMISSIONER EANEMAN MOVED TO DIRECT THE CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR TO DRAFT A LETTER TO CITY COUNCIL ASKING THAT THEY LOOK AT MORE DIVERSE APPLICANTS WHEN MAKING BOARD AND COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS AND OFFERING THE COMMISSION'S FUTURE ASSISTANCE. COMMISSIONER DREWS SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED SEVEN (7) TO ZERO (0). CHAIR HINCHMAN, VICE-CHAIR EANEMAN, COMMISSIONERS DREWS, KEEN, RHODEN, ROMAGNOLO, AND SHIMOKUBO VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

4. Update, discussion, and possible recommendations regarding diversity and inclusion-related activities and events attended by the Human Relations Commission

Jackie Johnson, Diversity Program Director, offered Commissioners an opportunity to mention any community engagement that they have participated in. Commissioners listed the following events they attended or plan to attend:

- Commissioner Eaneman:
 - Dear Martin, A Jazz Tribute to MLK
- Commissioner Shimokubo:
 - Dear Martin, A Jazz Tribute to MLK

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

Jackie Johnson, Diversity Program Director, mentioned that she recently reached out to Chief Walther who followed up with a lieutenant who explained what happened with the antisemitic vandalism incident at one of the SUSD schools having to do with a school project. She said that they do not know who is responsible for the incident. Concerns about the incidents with Native Art Market are ongoing. Staff is considering ways that the City could have a conversation with people involved. In addition, a discrimination complaint was filed in September regarding an allegation that there was racial discrimination and refusal of public accommodation, but based on available information, the accusation has not been substantiated.

Ms. Johnson announced that the Women's History Month celebration is scheduled Tuesday, March 21, 2023 at 5:00 p.m. Collette V. Smith will be the keynote speaker and Miss Gila River might be in attendance.

The City is working in partnership with Scottsdale arts on the Juneteenth event scheduled for June 17, 2023. The planning committee will tour Scottsdale Arts on March 30th to look at the space and discuss logistics for the event.

Ms. Johnson said that with the help of the three interns, the department sent out a survey to all City of Scottsdale employees to get feedback on the idea of employee resource groups and has received a lot of positive feedback. Interns are also conducting a department assessment, looking to see what all departments are doing as it relates to diversity, inclusion, and equity.

One intern is working on the frequently asked question and the community partnership list and has identified some other partners that could potentially be considered. Once completed, that report will come to the HRC for consideration.

Ms. Johnson mentioned that a Cesar Chavez Lunch and Learn will be held at Civic Center Library on March 30, 2023, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Chair Hinchman said that she hopes to communicate with Chief Walther to ask that specific questions be answered regarding recent incidents, as part of the police presentation in April.

Ms. Johnson said that discussions are under way with the police department about sharing a table at the One in Ten Brunch.

6. Identification of Future Agenda Items

Mr. Stockwell said that for future agenda items it is important to keep in mind the purview of the commission. Discussion of events happening with SUSD are not within the jurisdiction of the City, because they are a separate governmental body. Commissioners are welcome to submit comments regarding the situation as individual citizens. Staff will consult with the City Attorney's office about whether or not discussion regarding the SUSD situation can be agendaized.

Upcoming meetings could include:

- Strategic Initiatives
- Legislative update – SB 1694
- Scottsdale Police Department hate crimes report
- Commissioner event attendance report
- Reviewing the ADO

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 10, 2023.

Adjournment

COMMISSIONER EANEMAN MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. COMMISSIONER DREWS SECONDED THE MOTION. NO VOTE WAS TAKEN.

With no further business to discuss, being duly moved and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 6:38 p.m.

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