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CALL TO ORDER

[Time: 00:00:03]

Mayor Lane: Good afternoon. I would like to call to order the special meeting of March 18, 2014. We will start with a roll call, please.

ROLL CALL

[Time: 00:00:06]

City Clerk Carolyn Jagger: Mayor Jim Lane.

Mayor Lane: Present.

Carolyn Jagger: Vice Mayor Virginia Korte.

Vice Mayor Korte: Here.

Carolyn Jagger: Councilmembers Suzanne Klapp.

Councilwoman Klapp: Here.

Carolyn Jagger: Bob Littlefield.

Councilman Littlefield: Here.

Carolyn Jagger: Linda Milhaven.

Carolyn Jagger: Guy Phillips.

Councilman Phillips: Here.

Carolyn Jagger: Dennis Robbins absent.

Carolyn Jagger: City Attorney Bruce Washburn.

Bruce Washburn: Here.

Carolyn Jagger: And the City Clerk is present.

[Time: 00:00:29]

Mayor Lane: Thank you. One and only item on this agenda is the Boards and Commission Interviews and Appointment Process. For that process, I will turn it over to Vice Mayor Korte.

ITEM 1 – BOARDS, COMMISSIONS AND TASK FORCES INTERVIEWS AND APPOINTMENTS

[Time: 00:00:36]

Vice Mayor Korte: Thank you, Mayor. This afternoon, the City Council is interviewing Scottsdale residents interested in serving on four citizen advisory boards. I want to thank these individuals for their willingness to volunteer their time in service for this community. Your time is very much appreciated. Following each set of interviews, we will vote on the appointment for that specific commission. As I call your name, please come to the podium. We ask that you briefly cover the following material, please share your name, address and how long you have lived in Scottsdale, why do you want to serve on this board or commission, how do your experiences, whether they be educational, professional or volunteer qualify you to serve on the commission and finally what do you think is the top issue facing your commission. Please limit your comments to three minute or less. We have a timer by the screen to help you manage the time. Following each nominee's response, I will ask Councilmembers if they have any questions.

HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

[Time: 00:01:46]

So first commission we have is Human Relations Commission. There are two openings. The Scottsdale Human Relations Commission will advocate and promote all dimensions of diversity. Robin Murphy and Janice Johnson both withdrew their nominations. There are two vacancies and two nominees. The remaining nominees are: James Campbell and Ragan Grossman. So please come to the podium in that order, Mr. Campbell.

[Time: 00:02:26]

James Campbell: Good afternoon, Mr. Mayor, Vice Mayor, members of the Council, ladies and gentlemen. My name is James Campbell. I live in 11895 East Del Timbre Drive in Scottsdale, and I have been in Scottsdale for 14 years. I am here to request the body to reappoint me for a second term as a member of the commission. I served the commission for four years and I am now the vice chair and I have found that it is worth my time to invest further in working with the commission. I found it challenging. I found the commission to be a vital part of the city of Scottsdale in issues of diversity, and promotion of cultural unity. So that's why I want to serve. My experience, you may already know, first of all, a grandfather of nine, married to my wife of almost 50 years, I'm sorry, 50 years. And I am a psychiatrist, I'm a practicing psychiatrist at this time. I'm a retired colonel of the U.S. Air Force and retired chief of service of the V.A. health system. I think my experience helps me a lot in understanding the problem of diversity and I suppose that it has contributed to some of our work towards understanding minorities in this city.

Now, what do I think is the top issue facing this board or commission? I hear all of you, especially the Mayor, say that he is proud that we are the most livable city of the west, and I am proud of that too, Mr. Mayor, but I would be prouder still if we would say we are the most livable city of diverse population in the west. I think the challenge, the major challenge for the Human Relations Commission, elected officials, the city of Scottsdale in general is how to achieve the mission of the Human Relations Commission. Let me say this, our mission, as an advisory to you, are to promote respect and understanding among people. Second, is to prevent prejudice and discrimination, and third is to promote cultural diversity. So are the missions that I hope the city of Scottsdale, you as elected officials will achieve the notoriety of having achieved the...

[Time: 00:06:08]

Vice Mayor Korte: Mr. Campbell, can you complete your statements?

James Campbell: All right. I hope that we would have achieved the three missions that I have just numerated and with your help, the Human Relations Council help, I think we can be the most livable, diverse city of Arizona. Thank you.

Vice Mayor Korte: Thank you. Ragan Grossman.

Mayor Lane: Oh, I have a question. Mr. Campbell, if you wouldn't mind.

Vice Mayor Korte: Go back to the podium, please.

Mayor Lane: Just a quick question and frankly, maybe it's a little bit more of a comment, but you went through the mission statement very, very well, very accurately until you got to the last part, and I just wanted to, it's to work towards cultural awareness and unity, and so that could be seen a little bit differently. I wanted you to make sure that you are aware of that. We have done a lot of things together and I'm very aware of your contributions over the years.

James Campbell: Point well taken, Mayor.

Mayor Lane: Thank you. That's all.

Vice Mayor Korte: Thank you.

[Time: 00:07:27]

Ragan Grossman: Good evening. My name is Ragan Grossman. I live at 10925 East Laurel Lane in Scottsdale. And I have lived there for about four years. I wanted to find a way to really get involved in my community outside of my employer, and why I chose this commission is first and foremost, I wanted to really be active in my community. My husband and I lived in the valley for five years. We left and we went to Colorado, only wanting to come back. And we consider Scottsdale home. We have been back now for about three years, and we want it to invest in our community. We want to invest in our neighborhood. We want to invest in our neighbors. And I think the Human Relations Commission promotes initiatives and events and I want to be part of that. I think the context is brilliant, the civil dialogue series, it's great. I think that I have ideas of how to promote attendance and probably how to get out to the community from different age groups as well. There's no denying that our M.E.I. score probably needs to be improved and I have some ideas about how I think that we could go about doing that as well.

My experience to serve on this board. So you saw from my application, I can rattle off the volunteer opportunities that I have done, from adopt a classroom, speaking at Scottsdale community college, but really, I think it's my age and my interest that would make me a quality member of this team. We all see, all age groups see the differences but I think how we deal with it, it can come from a different mind-set. I'm 33 years old. My husband and I are really, we want to become part of this community and we're starting families and our friends are knee-deep in their careers and I really want to be invested in what is going on around me. I also have an extensive background as an event planner. So that's kind of the icing on the cake. You can have the best message, and if you don't have the people there to hear it, then the message is lost. I think we can put more emphasis on promotion. Probably the biggest challenge, in my opinion, facing the board, is acceptance. We can talk about diversity. A politician, who I won't tell you who, is we have to find a way to celebrate our diversity and debate our differences without fracturing our community. We are very good at debating our differences and I think the Human Relations Commission is really great at celebrating diversity, but how do we create this. It's important that my community wraps their arms around me. I want to try to take control of part of that if I can and really try to be an influence. So what I think we need to do is appeal our events and our methods need to appeal to a homogenous group, like age group or mothers, and food and beverage. If you bring those people together you get diversity organically. So I would really put 110% into teaching, promoting and encouraging acceptance.

Vice Mayor Korte: Thank you, Ms. Grossman. Any questions? Thank you. Councilwoman Milhaven.

Councilwoman Milhaven: You talked about appealing to more homogenous groups. That seems to

contradict about celebrating diversity. Can you explain what you mean by that?

Ragan Grossman: Like the civil dialogue series. So we talk about gay and lesbian, we talk about Asian-American, and we talk about these different groups of people in silos and I think instead of talking about and celebrating and education is a huge part. I think the commission has done a great job of educating but if we saw a message or an event that spans, let's say across mothers, right, there's mothers of all backgrounds, races, ages, to bring those people together, they already have an empathy and acceptance for one another on that level.

Councilwoman Milhaven: So if you were to say recognizing similarities and celebrating differences.

Ragan Grossman: And then you see how you learn from another, right?

Councilwoman Milhaven: Thank you.

[Time: 00:12:18]

Vice Mayor Korte: Any other questions. Thank you, Ms. Grossman. Rachel is going to help us through the voting process. So tonight we have two vacancies for the Human Relations Commission. So each Councilmember may vote twice. We have two nominees. Is there anyone up there?

Management Assistant to Mayor Rachel Smetana: Excuse me, Vice Mayor. We're having some technical difficulties. I can just write it down.

Vice Mayor Korte: Okay. I will start with Councilmember Phillips. Vote for two. We have James Campbell and Ragan Grossman.

Councilmember Phillips: Okay, then I will vote for Dr. Campbell and Ragan Grossman.

Vice Mayor Korte: And I will vote for Campbell and Grossman.

Councilman Littlefield: Same.

Mayor Lane: Vote for Campbell and Grossman.

Councilwoman Klapp: Campbell and Grossman.

Councilwoman Milhaven: Dr. Campbell and Ms. Grossman.

Vice Mayor Korte: And that completes our vote. And as Rachel catches up, I believe it was 6-6. So we have appointed Dr. James Campbell and Ragan Grossman.

LIBRARY BOARD

[Time: 00:13:49]

Vice Mayor Korte: Moving on to the Library Board, there's one opening. The Library Board advises Council on general policy relating to program and future development of the library. The board oversees the library's special revenue fund. There's one vacancy and three nominees. A point of information, Christine Naiman is unable to attend this afternoon, but submitted her answers in writing and wishes to be considered. The remaining nominees are Halette Fealey and Dierk Seeburg. Do we have Christine Naiman's submittals? I don't have them up here. Where did she submit them and...

Rachel Smetana: Vice Mayor, Mayor, members of Council, they were in your packet. They were in the drop box.

Vice Mayor Korte: Okay. Thank you. So would Ms. Fealey like to come up?

[Time: 00:15:07]

Halette Fealey: Good afternoon. I'm pleased to be here this afternoon and I will start with my name is Halette Fealey. I reside at 3220 North 82nd Place Scottsdale, and I have lived here for just over 22 years. The reason I want to serve on this board, it might sound simplistic but basically I have gotten so much out of libraries all through my life. My family has. It's helped me through everything basically that we wanted to do, and I like to give back. So that's one of the main reasons I thought about it and I decided I would like to try to be on the board. I will try to figure out what the next question was, but I think it was basically my education and I received a master's degree, I'm sorry, I will start with Bachelor of Arts degree in New York City in English literature and in education. I received a Master's of Science degree in New York City in the area of corrective reading. I have served, I volunteered at museums in New York and did a lot of fund-raising through the museums. I worked in the New York City ballet as a volunteer and also did fund-raising and for whatever it's worth, right now I'm the block captain in my neighborhood. I was a reading teacher in New York and I continue to be a reading teacher here in Scottsdale.

What I think the top issue is facing the library is that, is funding. We need to have more funding, but, of course, that's an issue all over, with everything. The other issue, though, that I'm concerned about is literacy. Promoting literacy, early literacy in the home and promoting continued literacy as children grow and become teenagers and adults. I know the library is working hard in that area and I would like to very much be a part of that. I have benefited along with the school children in the school where I teach in that we have the library bring all kinds of activities and events to the school. Last night, in fact, we had the first of the six-week program that we have had in the past but we continue to have with the library coming into the school to work with the children and their parents and teach the parents how to read what with their children and to enjoy books. So, again, I would like to just give back what I have gained and what I know my students are gaining now. Thank you.

Vice Mayor Korte: Thank you, Ms. Fealey. Any questions? Thank you. With Dierk Seeburg please come up. Thank you, Dierk.

[Time: 00:18:26]

Dierk Seeburg: Good afternoon, Mayor, Vice Mayor, members of Council, members of the public. My name is Dierk Seeburg and I have applied to serve on the Library Board. I reside at El Charro Lane in Scottsdale and have been there since August of 2011. Before that, I lived in the valley for 22 years total. Why do I want to serve on the Library Board? Basically, I want to support the mission of the library. I want to support the library in its efforts to provide a place for the community to discover, to explore, to become lifelong learners. Libraries have been, as an extended point of inflection moving from physical to digital. This change can bear risk, but it also brings great opportunity given the right strategies. I would dedicate my work on the board to help guide the library, develop programs for the whole community, all ages, all walks of life.

How does my experience qualify me to serve on the Library Board? In my current position, working for a company in the digital learning space, I am keenly aware of the ongoing transition from physical to digital content. I can therefore directly apply the insights that I glean from conversations with customers in my job to help guide the library to develop proactive strategies for creating offline and online places for the whole community to meet. And to fill the changing informational needs of our patrons. In addition, my work on the executive board of an Arizona nonprofit as well as an administrator for a national nonprofit enabled me to build on those experiences of developing educational programs so Scottsdale continues to be the most livable city. What is the top issue facing the Library Board? In my opinion, the top issue facing the board is the continuing budget gap which is forcing the library to reduce programs and even close branches or convert them to school libraries. This, in combination with the technological demands of our patrons threaten to undermine our ability to fulfill our mission to provide a supportive environment to become lifelong learners. What approach would I take to address it? On one hand, I would help to address the budget shortfall by demonstrating the value of our library that produces a return on investment, by focusing on value, backed up by data that supports it, we will continue to earn the funding needed to meet the other big issue of adapting to the needs of our patrons. With that I thank you and I yield my time to your questions.

Vice Mayor Korte: Thank you, Mr. Seeburg. Any questions?

Mayor Lane: Thank you, Vice Mayor. Mr. Seeburg, you mentioned one the important aspects. You named several, but one of the things I sort of had expected, given what you had just said previously, with your background and experience, in the digital side of this, is there any thought that you have with regard to the evolution of library services that would be enhanced with your background and ability to meet the needs that we all seek for our library system, the same time evolve as maybe necessary? Any thought on that?

[Time: 00:22:18]

Dierk Seeburg: Well, in my current position, it is my experience that customers have difficulty adapting to the changing needs of their customers. So, you know, going for physical books in the

library to electronic resources, that poses problems that my customers are having difficulty dealing with. Pointing out items to solve those problems, I can apply that same knowledge and experience through the work on the Library Board. Does that answer your question?

Mayor Lane: I think so and it goes hand in hand with something I heard you also say and that is, and this has always been a struggle certainly when you think about R.O.I., return on investment in the normal sense of things. But as you talk about meeting and evolving customer base with the library services, there's an inherent return if you are able to make that evolution in a proper way, but, anyway, I just was, I was more curious about the fact with your background whether you considered that as part of overall progress or issue for the libraries.

Dierk Seeburg: One additional comment I may make. The addition of the Eureka space at the Scottsdale library, I think is an example of the changing of the library in response to patrons demands and it brings together the community as a whole.

Mayor Lane: Thank you Mr. Seeburg. Thank you Vice Mayor.

Vice Mayor Korte: Any other questions for Mr. Seeburg? Thank you, Mr. Seeburg. You may sit down now. So there's one vacancy for Library Board. Each Councilmember can vote once. We have three nominees. I will start with Councilman Littlefield.

Councilman Littlefield: Seeburg.

Mayor Lane: I vote for Mr. Seeburg.

Councilwoman Klapp: I think it was Halette Fealey, sorry for messing up your pronunciation.

Councilwoman Milhaven: Ms. Fealey.

Councilmember Phillips: Ms. Fealey.

Vice Mayor Korte: Ms. Fealey.

Vice Mayor Korte: So that's a vote of 4 for Ms. Fealey and 2 for Mr. Seeburg. It looks like Ms. Fealey you are the new Library Board member.

NEIGHBORHOOD ADVISORY COMMISSION

[Time: 00:24:58]

We move on to Neighborhood Advisory Commission. There are two openings. They advise and make recommendations to the City Council on policies, plans, strategies and programs for the preservation, improvement, and revitalization of Scottsdale's housing and neighborhoods. Jordan Ledbetter is the only nominee. He's unable to attend this afternoon but submitted his answers in

writing and wishes to be considered. So that will move us directly to the vote. And I will start with Mayor Lane.

Mayor Lane: Jordan Ledbetter.

Councilwoman Klapp: Jordan Ledbetter.

Councilwoman Milhaven: Mr. Ledbetter.

Councilmember Phillips: Mr. Ledbetter.

Vice Mayor Korte: Mr. Ledbetter.

Councilman Littlefield: Mr. Ledbetter.

Vice Mayor Korte: And that's 6-0 for Mr. Ledbetter.

TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

[Time: 00:26:05]

Vice Mayor Korte: And finally the last is Transportation Commission. There's one opening. The Transportation Commission is an advisory board of the City Council on matters related to transportation. There's one vacancy, and one nominee. The nominee is Barry Graham and I believe Mr. Graham is in the audience. Would you like to come up and speak for three minutes regarding those questions? Thank you Mr. Graham.

[Time: 00:28:21]

Barry Graham: Good evening Mayor Lane, Vice Mayor Korte and Councilmembers, my name is Barry Graham and I live at 7842 East Monte Rosa Street. I want to thank you for your nomination to the Transportation Commission. Effective transportation systems and planning are vital for diversifying and growing our economy. We need vision to identify strategies that will keep Scottsdale's economy thriving and continue making our city a destination for visitors. As commissioner, I will take a first things first approach. We must ensure that our basic systems, traffic signals, intersections and streets are safe and efficient always, but above all else, I believe it is essential to listen to the ones most affected by transportation systems and strategies, our citizens. Transportation must work for them. So listening carefully and collaborating with citizens is a priority. Thank you again very much for your consideration are had and I look forward to serving on the Transportation Commission and working for and with the citizens of Scottsdale. I will be happy to answer any questions.

Vice Mayor Korte: Thank you, Mr. Graham. Are there any questions? Thank you. That brings us to a vote, there's one vacancy. So each Councilmember can vote once and there's one nominee. I will begin with Councilwoman Klapp.

Councilwoman Klapp: Barry Graham.

Councilwoman Milhaven: Mr. Graham.

Mayor Lane: Mr. Graham.

Vice Mayor Korte: Mr. Graham.

Councilman Littlefield: Graham.

Councilmember Phillips: Graham.

Vice Mayor Korte: It is unanimous, 6-0 thank you, Rachel for keeping us on target there. Congratulations Mr. Graham. That concludes our interview and appointment process this afternoon. Thank you, everyone, that interviewed today and I will turn the meeting back to the Mayor.

ADJOURNMENT

[Time: 00:29:03]

Mayor Lane: Thank you, Vice Mayor and that is the single and only item we have on this special meeting. So I will accept a motion to adjourn.

Councilmember Phillips: Move to adjourn.

Mayor Lane: We have a motion and a second. All of those in favor of adjournment please indicate by aye. Thank you and we will be back at 5:00 for our regular meeting.