



**SUMMARIZED MINUTES**

**CITY OF SCOTTSDALE  
HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING  
5:00 p.m., Monday, January 11, 2016**

**Civic Center Library  
Board of Directors Conference Room/Administration-Level 2  
3839 N. Drinkwater Blvd.  
Scottsdale, Arizona 85251**

**PRESENT:** James Campbell, Chair  
Ragan Grossman, Vice-Chair  
Laurie Coe  
Joseph Ettinger  
Daria Lohman  
Andrew Song

**ABSENT:** Ricoh Danielson

**STAFF:** Sharon Cini

**Call to Order/Rollcall:**

Chair Campbell called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m.

**1. Approval of minutes from the December 14, 2015 meeting**

**COMMISSIONER COE MOVED TO APPROVE THE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 14, 2015 MEETING AS PRESENTED. VICE-CHAIR GROSSMAN SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED BY A VOTE OF SIX (6) TO ZERO (0). COMMISSIONER DANIELSON WAS ABSENT.**

**2. Public Comment**

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

**3. Annual election for Human Relations Commission Chair**

**COMMISSIONER LOHMAN MOVED TO RETAIN THE CURRENT HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION CHAIRMAN AND VICE-CHAIRMAN FOR THE YEAR 2016. COMMISSIONER SONG SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED BY A VOTE OF SIX (6) TO ZERO (0). COMMISSIONER DANIELSON WAS ABSENT.**

**4. Annual election for Human Relations Commission Vice-Chair**

Voted on as part of Item 3.

**5. Presentation, discussion and recommendation to staff liaison regarding Civil Dialogue event “Interfaith Civil Dialogue” on January 27, 2016**

Chair Campbell presented the flyer advertising the Interfaith Civil Dialogue event. The flyer is available for distribution both in paper and digital format and will be included in MLK Dinner packets. Ms. Cini shared the Scottsdale news release that is being put out by the Office of Communications.

Commissioner Coe volunteered to contact religious studies teachers at the various colleges and suggest they encourage their students to attend.

Chair Campbell noted that the panelists have been confirmed as: Dr. Zuhdi Jasser, Dr. Jaswant, Singh Sachdev, Reverend Gregory Schlarb, Rabbi Micah Caplan, and Sister Bridget Nielsen and Sister Lisa Watson.

Discussion ensued regarding marketing and questions that will be posed to panelists and a meeting with the panelists prior to the event. It was agreed that the meeting would be scheduled for Thursday, January 21st at 1:30 p.m.

Commissioners discussed assigning tasks to be fulfilled by Commissioners during the event, food offerings during the event, and extending invitations to City Council members.

**6. Presentation, discussion and recommendation to staff liaison regarding upcoming diversity collaborations with Scottsdale Center for Performing Arts**

Ms. Cini announced that a Sunday A'Fair is scheduled from noon to 4:00 p.m. on January 17th in Civic Center Park. The Commission has an opportunity to have a tent if there are enough Commissioners available to volunteer. It will be discussed during the February meeting whether or not the Commission will continue to participate.

Ms. Cini noted the April 3rd Festival will focus on various cultures, including Native American dance and would be an outreach opportunity for the Commission.

Ms. Cini noted that the Commission has volunteered to help promote the Out at SMOCA event scheduled for March 21st. In addition, Commissioner Grossman has volunteered to work on the planning committee for the event.

Commissioner Grossman recalled that the Commission had voted earlier in the year to partner with other organizations in putting on events in lieu of continuing the Civil Dialogue Series as it has historically been. Ms. Cini said that the recent event with the Library was not considered

a Civil Dialogue event. Commissioner Grossman said that depending on the number of events that the Commission is being asked to participate in for the fiscal year, there might not be enough manpower if the Civil Dialogue continues.

**7. Presentation, discussion and recommendation to staff liaison regarding Human Relations Commission annual report**

Ms. Cini presented the HRC Annual Report and solicited comments.

It was the consensus of the Commission to add under the Additional Commissioner Comments section a note that the Human Relations Commission recommends to City Council that they pass an LGBT rights ordinance. Commissioner attendance at the Baha'i Community event in December will be added. Commission members are welcome to email Ms. Cini any additional items they would like to be added to the report.

**8. Presentation, discussion and recommendation to staff liaison regarding review of Community Diversity Partners list**

Ms. Cini distributed an informational packet which included a list of potential new community partners.

The Commission discussed the financial commitments with the Diversity partners and what, if any, benefits that the City is receiving from those partnerships. Commissioner Song suggested that instead of paying for membership, organizations be invited to register with the City as a partner and each year be offered an opportunity to apply to put on an event that the HRC can support financially.

The Commission reviewed and commented on a list of current and potential partners in detail, discussing membership benefits and costs.

**9. Presentation, discussion and recommendation to staff liaison regarding diversity activities with Scottsdale school districts**

Ms. Cini noted that the Mayor's Youth Council Town Hall is scheduled for January 21st and will focus on diversity and in particular religious, socioeconomic and race diversity. She will find out if Commission members would be needed as volunteers during the town hall.

Ms. Cini said that she will bring the Scottsdale Unified School District's Five-Year Diversity Platform to the February meeting.

**10. Staff updates regarding upcoming diversity events and activities**

Ms. Cini had no further updates.

**11. Report from the Chair**

Chair Campbell asked that an item discussing the Commission's commitments for the rest of the year be agendaized for the February meeting.

**12. Commissioner Items, including diversity activities attended**

Commissioner Lohman recommended that everyone go see the movie "The Danish Girl" which is a story based on the diaries of the first transgender woman in the 1930s.

Commissioner Song met with Vice-Mayor Smith to discuss activities of the Commission. He expressed concern that Council members are not aware of what the Human Relations Commission does. He attended the meeting of the Phoenix Police Advisory Group and noted that it would be beneficial to have diversity groups work with the Scottsdale Police Department. He will be meeting on Wednesday, January 13th with the Phoenix Anti-defamation League director who is interested in talking with the City of Scottsdale about curbing bullying in schools. Commissioner Song stressed the importance of agendaizing an item to discuss creating guidelines regarding how diversity membership and the budget work together.

Vice-Chair Grossman said she will be attending the Martin Luther King dinner.

Commissioner Coe met with Councilmember Korte to discuss HRC activities. She is very supportive of the Commission's activities and will be running for office again. Commissioner Coe will be attending the Martin Luther King dinner.

Commissioner Ettinger announced that he was selected by Chief Justice Scott Bales of the Arizona Supreme Court to create legal education videos and webinars. He is working on four for the year including one on the topic of protecting inactive service members from predators, law for kids, elder law, and continuing law for veterans. He noted that the New York Times recently published an article about a serviceman who was denied the Congressional Medal of Honor for 35 years because he was Jewish. Members of his company testified that their commanding officer used anti-Semitic tactics in his command. A group is suggesting to the Holocaust Commission that a memorial be created for service members who were denied recognition because they were Jewish.

**13. Discussion regarding the draft agenda for the next meeting, and dates, times and topics for upcoming meetings**

No additional items were suggested.

**Adjournment**

With no further business to discuss, being duly moved and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 7:07 p.m.

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