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**MINUTES  
HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING  
Monday, May 12, 2008  
5:00 p.m.  
Human Resources  
Pinnacle Training Room  
7575 E. Main Street  
Scottsdale, Arizona**



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**PRESENT:** Enid Seiden, Chair  
Carol Padwe, Vice Chair  
Jeff Jameson, Commissioner  
Kuros Lame, Commissioner  
Linda Simmons, Commissioner

**ABSENT:** Richard Woerth, Commissioner

**STAFF:** Linda Walton, Staff Liaison  
David Ellison, Assistant City Manager  
Neal Shearer, Assistant City Manager

1. **Call to Order:**

The meeting of the Scottsdale Human Relations Commission was called to order by Chair Seiden at 4:59 p.m.

Chair Seiden announced that Marty Gendron submitted a formal letter of resignation on May 12th, 2008, and had resigned from the Human Relations Commission, effective immediately. She expressed her disappointment at the news, and noted that Ms. Walton has begun the process of exploring candidates for application. She suggested that increasing the size of the Commission could encourage more dialogue.

2. **Cross Cultural Communication Series:**

Chair Seiden asked the Commission to discuss topics that the Cross Cultural Communication Series could address next year.

Ms. Walton reviewed a list of topics the series has covered from 2000 to 2007, and presented suggestions for the Commission to consider. One suggestion is to have the entire series address the influence that different cultures have had on Scottsdale throughout its history, with one culture represented each time. Another idea would be to center the series on cultural diversity, and link the series to various national awareness months. The third suggestion is to continue the series similarly to how it has always been done.

Other issues may include age, and racial diversity, freedom of speech and use of words some cultures may find unacceptable, and the socio-economics of homelessness. Perhaps a panel, featuring a variety of religious or spiritual points of view, could explore a discussion on religious unity.

Commissioner Lame suggested a discussion on healthcare and what it means from the perspective of different groups. The philosophical foundation of health needs to be addressed.

Chair Seiden expressed a preference for learning about the influences that developed Scottsdale, which would include Hispanic, Jewish, Yavapai, Yaqui, Pima, Maricopa, and Chinese cultures. Many people would be interested in learning about the history of Scottsdale. One group could be featured each time.

Commissioner Simmons suggested soliciting the help of author and historian Joan Fudala, who has written about Scottsdale. The business world has learned that it is hard to define diversity in terms of boundaries of law and neighborhoods, because it is so much stronger across interests, language and culture. Tying it all together under the collective experience of Scottsdale would be beneficial.

She also suggested that the discussion on the socio-economics of homelessness could be done in partnership with Human Services, since they deal with the problem regularly. This would help create greater awareness than the Commission could accomplish working alone. Vice Chair Padwe said it would also increase community awareness of the services that are offered to the homeless.

Commissioner Jameson suggested that a lecture on homelessness could be timed to coincide with the Federal Homeless Count in January, which requires municipalities to tally the homeless in their communities. Federal funding is fixed to actual head counts.

Ms. Walton suggested partnering with the library and schools to create a series of public dialogues on homelessness and health care, while linking the Cross Cultural Series to other diversity issues.

Commissioner Simmons said that while homelessness may have some diversity-related issues associated with it, homelessness is so much a part of Human Services, that it would be hard to cover it without their partnership.

Commissioner Jameson said he would be interested in exploring ways to engage youth in civic work and the workplace.

Chair Seiden noted that many good ideas had been presented, but urged a decision to be made so that the invitation letters could be sent.

Vice Chair Padwe felt that exploring Scottsdale's cultural roots would only cover one or two lectures, as opposed to a whole season. Chair Seiden felt too much information would have to be covered in too short a time and suggested combining groups tied to their associated national awareness months.

Commissioner Lame suggested that the lectures be tied together under a common theme such as "Diverse Cultures, One Community."

By consensus, the Commission chose to have the Cross Cultural Communication Series focus on the contributions that different cultures have made on the development of Scottsdale, with each culture's presentation tied into an appropriate national awareness month. The overall topic would be "Diverse Cultures, One Community." Joan Fudala's input would be sought when preparing the series.

3. **Open Call to the Public (A.R.S. § 38-431.02):**

No members of the public wished to address the Commission.

4. **Adjournment:**

With no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 5:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

A/V Tronics, Inc.