
**MINUTES
HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
Monday, June 9, 2008
5:00 p.m.
Human Resources
Pinnacle Training Room
7575 E. Main Street
Scottsdale, Arizona**



PRESENT: Enid Seiden, Chair
Carol Padwe, Vice Chair
Jeff Jameson, Commissioner
Kuros Lamé, Commissioner
Richard Woerth, Commissioner

ABSENT: Linda Simmons, 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 5:11 p.m.

2. **Review and Approval of Minutes:**

Vice Chair Padwe corrected the use of "Committee" instead of "Commission."

VICE CHAIR PADWE MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE APRIL 14, 2008 REGULAR MEETING AS AMENDED. COMMISSIONER JAMESON SECONDED. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY BY A VOTE OF FIVE (5) TO ZERO (0).

Ms. Walton suggested the use of, "the process of exploring the candidates for application," instead of, "the process of finding somebody to replace him," in agenda item 1.

COMMISSIONER WOERTH MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MAY 12, 2008 REGULAR MEETING AS AMENDED. COMMISSIONER LAMÉ SECONDED. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY BY A VOTE OF FIVE (5) TO ZERO (0).

3. **Cross Cultural Communication Series:**

Chair Seiden reminded the Commission of its previous decision to focus the Series on the cultural roots of Scottsdale. Ms. Walton explained that historian Joan Fudala has suggested that the focus be broadened to include Jewish culture in addition to Hispanic, African-American, Asian-American, and Native American cultures. Ms. Walton is to meet Ms. Fudala on June 30 for further discussion. Commissioners Jameson and Padwe agreed to also attend the meeting.

Chair Seiden made note of suggestions that the series be held in different locations throughout Scottsdale, and that at least one Commissioner be available to support each event.

4. **Unity Walk:**

Ms. Walton reported that planning meetings for the Unity Walk would be held once every two weeks. The next meeting will be on June 18.

February 28 had originally been considered for this event, but that date would have coincided with an American Heart Association walk. February 14 and January 31 are the dates currently being considered, and most partnering cities are leaning towards the February date.

The plan is that the walk would start at different strategic points, and culminate at the Tempe Town Lake near the Center for the Arts. In order to make the event more family-friendly, games and activities are planned at the Center, and will possibly involve Child's Play Theater.

The group wanted to build upon last year's successful association of the Unity Walk with Empty Bowls. Vice Chair Padwe felt last year's event was not a success. Ms. Walton said the group acknowledged that there have been problems with routing in past years, and that people have not stayed once the walk was over. Empty Bowls did help to encourage people to stay longer.

Chair Seiden identified the challenge of increasing community awareness of the event. The walk needs more of a purpose beyond just "unity." It benefited from its association with the Martin Luther King Day celebration several years ago.

Commissioner Jameson suggested that children's art be displayed at the Art Center.

In response to Commissioner Woerth, Ms. Walton said each city is budgeting for a portion of the public safety and publicity costs.

Responding to Commissioner Lamé, Ms. Walton said the regional group is not opposed to the idea of a festival of nations, but decided that this year's event should focus on rebuilding momentum, in the wake of several disappointing years.

5. **Strategic Direction for the Commission:**

Chair Seiden asked the Commission to consider its future direction. The Commission needs to understand whether Scottsdale has any glaring issues that demand its immediate attention. A proposal has been made to create focus groups based around segments of the community such as faith, school, and business groups. Each group would be asked to address a list of

questions. Once the feedback has been gathered, the Commission would schedule a retreat to review the issues that were raised and determine a course of action.

Commissioner Jameson asked whether the City had the resources for the focus groups. Ms. Walton indicated that it would not be difficult to obtain a facilitator for the groups.

Commissioner Lamé recommended distributing questionnaires around the city to gather community feedback on what it feels are Scottsdale's most pressing issues. Commissioner Jameson felt the questionnaire would complement the focus group effort.

Chair Seiden suggested the questionnaire accompany the newsletter contained in the City water bill. Commissioner Jameson noted that an automated online survey service could be employed to save staff the task of compiling the information.

Ms. Walton indicated she would prepare a plan for the Commission to consider at its next meeting.

6. **Chair Reports:**

Chair Seiden reported on the regional HRC meeting. Harry Garewal, of the Arizona Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, presented highlights of Latino culture in the Valley.

Chair Seiden said the diversity training the City provides to its employees is most worthwhile. The program features many role-playing activities that are very eye opening. She suggested making the program available to the community in condensed form, at several locations throughout the city.

7. **Commissioner Items:**

Commissioner Jameson felt the diversity training would be beneficial to businesses in particular. Vice Chair Padwe suggested the Airpark, which employs so many people, would make a good location for community diversity training. The many smaller companies there do not have the funds, knowledge, or staff to conduct a similar program on their own.

Commissioner Lamé suggested that the questionnaire could be used to determine community interest in a diversity training workshop.

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

No members of the public wished to address the Commission.

9. **Staff Liaison Items:**

Ms. Walton distributed sponsorship packages for the Hispanic Heritage Celebration, and welcomed the help of Commissioners in soliciting sponsors for the event.

In response to Commissioner Lamé, Ms. Walton said 21 different Latin American countries are recognized in the celebration, including Brazil.

Ms. Walton explained that the Council would consider nominations to fill the vacant seat on the Human Relations Commission, on June 17. Applicants would be interviewed on June 24. Three new names have come forth, while another three applicants are in the pool from the prior process.

Ms. Walton reminded the Commission that Juneteenth is on June 19. Commissioners are invited to attend.

Ms. Walton related the story of a young Scottsdale man who believes he was discriminated against during a recent job search because of his sexual orientation. He had recently moved to Scottsdale with the perception that it was an inclusive community.

10. **Adjournment:**

With no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 6:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

A/V Tronics, Inc.