
**MINUTES
HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION
SPECIAL MEETING
Monday, August 25, 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

ABSENT: Nolan Harrison, Commissioner
Linda Simmons, Commissioner
Richard Woerth, Commissioner

STAFF: Linda Walton, Staff Liaison
Luis Santaella, Assistant City Attorney

1. **Call to Order:**

The meeting of the Scottsdale Human Relations Commission was called to order by Chair Seiden at 5:05 p.m.

2. **Cross Cultural Communication Series:**

Chair Seiden said the Cross Cultural Communication Series has benefited greatly from its association with the Library. The Library's public relations staff is drafting a brochure for the Series. The event calendar will also include information on the Series. The lectures will be held at libraries throughout the city. She requested that all Commissioners host at least one session. Hosts would be expected to introduce speakers and represent the Commission. There are 14 sessions in the series. The Library staff has prepared a list of suggested names to participate in the panels.

The first program on October 2 and 7 will consist of an overview of the series presented by Joan Fudala. The first subject is Native Americans, and Steve Geiogamah will moderate these lectures. Ms. Walton noted that the lectures are arranged chronologically, based on when each culture historically came into the area.

Chair Seiden continued, saying the third lecture features a panel discussion on the first families that arrived from Europe. This will be followed by a lecture on the Yaqui, with a panel including

Joe Garcia, Jr., who has been honored by Scottsdale for his volunteer work. Dr. Burruel would also participate in this panel. March will feature a lecture on African Americans in Scottsdale. Don Logan and Matthew Whitaker have been suggested for this panel. Ms. Walton, in response to Chair Seiden, said the intent is to have the lectures focus not only on history, but also on the current experience of each community. Commissioner Jameson inquired about the fee requested from the Arizona Humanities Council (AHC). Ms. Walton explained that the AHC, of which Dr. Whitaker is a member, requires a modest speaker fee.

Chair Seiden said Asian American culture is the focus of the next lecture. Panelists might include Jason Song, whose family was one of the first Asian families in the area, and Karen Leung, also of the AHC. There has also been talk about including the internment of Japanese Americans in Papago Park, during WWII. Commissioner Lamé suggested also including the Vietnamese refugees who settled here after the Vietnam War. Ms. Walton said that topic has been raised as a possibility as well. Chair Seiden reminded the Commission that the series is still a work in progress.

Vice Chair Padwe suggested Catherine Gomez as a good source for the Latino lecture, and also suggested including Caribbean culture. Ms. Walton said the two speakers that have been suggested for that panel have much to say. It was decided not to inundate the panel with a number of different speakers, and just limit it to the two. Commissioner Jameson said the series is dedicated to the impact that different cultures have had on Scottsdale's history, and he doubted that Caribbean cultures have had much of a presence here until just recently.

Chair Seiden said the last lecture would focus on the Jewish American impact on Scottsdale, and feature a speaker from the Jewish Community Center, and Lee Nach from the Jewish Historical Society. Vice Chair Padwe also suggested Rabbi Plotkin be considered.

Commissioner Jameson said the lineup is an impressive one. Chair Seiden agreed, saying the Library really took the idea and ran with it. Ms. Walton noted that light refreshments would be served. The evening start time was moved from 6:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m., to allow people time to get something to eat.

Chair Seiden explained that the hosts would be provided with scripts to read when introducing the panels. She volunteered to host the opening lecture at the Arabian Library, including the one at 12:00 p.m. Commissioner Lamé volunteered for the Native American lecture on November 10 at 6:30 p.m., and the April 9 lecture on Asian Americans at 6:30 p.m.

Vice Chair Padwe volunteered for the lectures at Mustang Library during the day on February 3, and April 7. Chair Seiden selected the Jewish American lecture at night. Ms. Walton noted that Vice Chair Padwe's term ends in March. Vice Chair Padwe dropped the April 7 lecture, and instead chose the October 2 date.

Commissioner Jameson volunteered for two daytime lectures. The first, on Native Americans on November 12, and the second on European Americans on January 13. Chair Seiden switched the 6:30 p.m. lecture on May 5, for the one at noon.

Ms. Walton noted that the remaining hosting slots are on January 15 at 6:30 p.m., February 5, March 3, March 5, April 7, and May 7. Vice Chair Padwe suggested emailing the remaining dates to the rest of the Commissioners.

Commissioner Lamé suggested invitations to the Filipino and East Indian/Pakistani communities. They would want to be considered as panel members. Ms. Walton said that suggestion would be brought to the attention of the researchers to see what historical impact those communities have had on the area. She also noted that the community is being invited to bring their own history to the event. The Commission discussed the current contributions of the local South and East Asian community on science, engineering, and mathematics.

Commissioner Jameson suggested that the snacks served at the lectures be selected to represent the corresponding theme.

Ms. Walton said the plan was to complete the brochure by mid-September, and include some information in the water bill for October. This has proven to be an effective way to get the word out about events. Channel 11 would also run announcements, and Joan Fudala would prepare a segment on each lecture.

Commissioner Jameson suggested videotaping the panels for archival purposes. Ms. Walton said the Library mentioned the possibility of using grant funds to capture some of the lectures. The theme of the series is "Scottsdale: Many Cultures, Many Stories."

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 5:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

A/V Tronics, Inc.