



## **City of Scottsdale Human Relations Commission Special Meeting**

**Monday, March 4, 2024**

Community Design Studio  
7506 E Indian School Rd  
Scottsdale, Arizona 85251

**PRESENT:** Tina Drews, Chair  
Ashlee Adams  
Emily Hinchman  
Cynthia Romagnolo

**STAFF:** Jackie Johnson, Diversity Director

### **Call to Order**

Chair Drews called the meeting to order at 5:08 p.m. and requested a moment of silence in memory of Commissioner Robin Reed.

### **Roll Call**

Members present as listed above.

### **Land Acknowledgement**

### **Public Comment**

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

### **1. Approval of the Regular Minutes for January 8, 2024**

COMMISSIONER HINCHMAN MOVED TO APPROVE THE JANUARY 8, 2024, HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES. COMMISSIONER ADAMS SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED FOUR (4) TO ZERO (0). CHAIR DREWS, COMMISSIONERS ADAMS, HINCHMAN, AND ROMAGNOLO VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

## **2. Discussion and possible nominations and election of a new Human Relations Commission Vice Chair**

Commissioner Drews explained that a new vice chair was needed due to the resignation of former Chair Jim Eaneman. She further explained that with his resignation, she became the new Human Relations Chairperson. Commissioner Drews stated her transition to the chair role left the vice chair position vacant. Chair Drews requested nominations for the vice chair and called for the vote. Commissioner Adams stated she was new to the Human Relations Commission and would like to wait learn more before accepting an office. She then recommended Commissioner Romagnolo, who agreed to serve as vice chair.

COMMISSIONER ADAMS NOMINATED COMMISSIONER ROMAGNOLO TO SERVE AS THE VICE CHAIR FOR THE HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE CURRENT TERM. COMMISSIONER HINCHMAN SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH WAS CARRIED FOUR (4) TO ZERO (0). CHAIR DREWS, COMMISSIONERS ADAMS, HINCHMAN, AND ROMAGNOLO VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

## **3. Update and discussion regarding the appointment of new Human Relations Commissioners**

Jackie Johnson, Diversity Director, informed the commissioners that there are now three (3) vacancies on the Human Relations Commission. She further explained that applications for the Human Relations Commission are open until April 26, 2024, and appointments will be made by Mayor and Council in May 2024. Ms. Johnson also shared that there are currently six or seven people who've applied to serve on the Human Relations Commission.

Commissioner Hinchman encouraged the commissioners share the Human Relations Commission vacancies with their networks

## **4. Discussion and possible action regarding updating the purpose statement and renaming the Human Relations Commission**

Chair Drews requested an update regarding changing the name of the Human Relations Commission to the Human Rights Commission.

Ms. Johnson explained that there has been discussion about the name change and there may be some opposition to the name change.

Discussion ensued about the desire to move forward with the recommendation to change the name of the Human Relations Commission to the Human Rights Commission.



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Ms. Johnson recommended inviting Assistant City Manager Brent Stockwell and Assistant City Attorney Senior Bill Hysten to the April 8, 2024 Human Relations Commission meeting to discuss appropriate next steps.

Commissioner Romagnolo recommended sharing the historical information about the Human Relations Commission presented by Assistant City Manager Brent Stockwell at the January 8, 2024 meeting with the City Council. She also expressed interest in their input.

Commissioner Hinchman would like to move forward with the recommendation to change the name of the commission to the Human Rights Commission.

Commissioner Romagnolo expressed the importance in having an inclusive commission that is diverse. She stated these factors are important to the companies in Scottsdale and the people who live here.

Commissioner Adams agreed citing pending anti-DEI legislation.

Chair Drews recommended presenting the name change along with a revision to the purpose statement for the Human Relations Commission. She suggested spending time at the April 8, 2024, meeting to review the purpose statement to strengthen the language and update it.

The commissioners would like to revisit this topic at the April meeting and share relevant documents with the City Council to support their recommendation.

#### **5. Update and possible recommendations regarding the partnership with Scottsdale Public Library for the Women's History Month celebration**

Commissioner Drews provided an update about the Women's History Month event featuring Gloria Feldt on March 21, 2024, at the Scottsdale Civic Center Library. Commissioner Drews has been working in partnership with Erin Riley to host the event. She stated the library advertised the event in their newsletter and on the events website. Commissioner Drews requested support in advertising the event.

Ms. Johnson agreed to share the information with community partners and employee groups. She will also invite the Mayor and City Council.

#### **6. Update, discussion and possible recommendations regarding recent and upcoming diversity and inclusion-related activities and incidents impacting the City of Scottsdale**

Ms. Johnson provided an update about the Black History Month weekly artists events hosted by the Black employees for Opportunities, Leadership and Development (BOLD). She also shared an update about Juneteenth, which will be held on Saturday, June 15, 2024, at Scottsdale Center for the Performing Arts from 2 – 7 p.m. Ms. Johnson informed the commissioners that Mayo Clinic will be the presenting sponsor again this year.



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## 7. Identification of Future Agenda Items

Upcoming meetings could include:

- Jewish Community Center Partnership
- Mayor's Youth Council Presentation
- Follow up on Renaming the Commission
- Reviewing the Commission's Purpose Statement
- Legislative Update by Government Relations Director Dale Wiebusch

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 8, 2024.

## Adjournment

COMMISSIONER HINCHMAN MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. COMMISSIONER ROMAGNOLO SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED FOUR (4) TO ZERO (0). CHAIR DREWS, COMMISSIONERS ADAMS, HINCHMAN, AND ROMAGNOLO VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

With no further business to discuss, being duly moved and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 5:55 p.m.

Prepared by Jackie Johnson



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