CITY OF SCOTTSDALE
HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING

SUMMARIZED MINUTES

Monday, September 11, 2017

Scottsdale Community Design Studio
7506 E. Indian School Road
Scottsdale, Arizona 85251

PRESENT: Laurie Coe, Chair
Nadia Mustafa, Vice Chair
Joseph Ettinger, Commissioner
Daria Lohman, Commissioner
Hannellie Mendoza, Commissioner
Stuart Rhoden, Commissioner (arrived at 5:06 p.m.)
Janice Shimokubo, Commissioner

STAFF: Sharon Cini
Brent Stockwell

GUESTS: Stanna-Michelle Slater

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Chair Coe called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Members present as listed above.

1. Approval of minutes from the August 14, 2017 meeting

VICE-CHAIR MUSTAFA MOVED TO APPROVE THE AUGUST 14, 2017 HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES. COMMISSIONER LOHMAN SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED BY A VOTE OF SIX (6) TO ZERO (0). COMMISSIONER RHODEN NOT PRESENT.
2. **Public Comment**

Stanna-Michelle Slater commented on her role as City LGBT Liaison

3. **Discussion and possible action regarding allowing the Chair to proactively contact the Mayor and City Council on behalf of the Commission, to ask that they communicate with a Scottsdale resident, business, or organization to encourage mutual respect and understanding about people, to discourage prejudice and discrimination, or to work towards cultural awareness and unity.**

Chair Coe said that she as an individual citizen made a request to Mayor Lane that he make a statement about the Charlottesville incident, which he did at the City Council meeting last week. She suggested that Commissioners go online and watch the video of his statement.

In-depth discussion ensued about crafting language for a document that would give the Chair the flexibility to proactively contact the Mayor and City Council on behalf of the Commission when necessary as discriminatory incidents happen in Scottsdale and the matter is urgent and needs to be addressed before the next HRC meeting. If there is enough time, such requests would still come from the Commission as a whole. Mr. Stockwell made clarifying points and suggested that the 2002 City of Scottsdale bombing incident be referenced as an example that Scottsdale is not immune to discrimination and acts of violence.

**COMMISSIONER RHODEN MOVED THAT THE CHAIR BE ALLOWED TO PROACTIVELY CONTACT THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL ON BEHALF OF THE COMMISSION TO ASK THAT THEY COMMUNICATE WITH THE SCOTTSDALE COMMUNITY (RESIDENTS, BUSINESSES, OR ORGANIZATIONS), TO ENCOURAGE MUTUAL RESPECT AND UNDERSTANDING AMONG PEOPLE, TO DISCOURAGE PREJUDICE AND DISCRIMINATION, OR TO WORK TOWARDS CULTURAL AWARENESS AND UNITY.**

Chair Coe announced that Commissioner Rhoden had a baby about a month ago. She also mentioned that Commissioner Lohman will be leaving her position on the Commission early and running for a position in state government.

Commissioner Lohman discussed her interest in running for government and thanked the Commission for the experience.

4. **Presentation, discussion, and recommendations regarding a City sponsored Motown community concert in honor of Black History Month (Feb. 2018)**

Ms. Cini presented information regarding the proposed Motown Community Concert to be held on Saturday, February 17, 2018 at McCormick-Stillman Railroad Park. She reviewed estimated costs and marketing strategies and noted that she anticipates that funding will come from a combination of sponsorships and dollars from the Diversity Office budget. Ms. Cini noted that in addition to herself, Joel Martin, Reverend Kathy Paterson, Chief Alan Rodbell, and Marion Kelley will be on the planning committee.

**COMMISSIONER SHIMOKUBO MOVED TO RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF A CITY SPONSORED MOTOWN COMMUNITY CONCERT IN HONOR OF BLACK HISTORY**
MONTH. COMMISSIONER MENDOZA SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED BY A UNANIMOUS VOTE OF SEVEN (7) TO ZERO (0).

5. Presentation, discussion, and recommendations regarding the development of a Human Relations Commission strategic plan, including items for inclusion within the plan

- Review DRAFT plan and discuss/review Diversity Calendar
- Identify HRC activities and organize for the year
- Develop community diversity statistical information
- Commissioner assignments

Ms. Cini mediated a discussion about the development of a Human Relations Commission Strategic plan. Discussion ensued regarding the draft strategic plan, the diversity calendar, and Human Relations Commission activities. Commissioner Shimokubo noted that the Human Relations Commission’s mission was to advocate and promote all dimensions of diversity, act as an advisory body to the mayor, city council and staff and make recommendations on ways to encourage mutual respect and understanding among people, discourage prejudice and discrimination, and work towards cultural awareness and unity.

Discussion ensued regarding the challenges and positives associated with the Civil Dialogue series, community events and community education, involving the community in challenging dialogue and education, and addressing discrimination events in Scottsdale. Commission members highlighted and discussed Golden Rule Day and ways to provide added value to the event in the future and the history of and the City’s commitment to the Regional Unity Walk.

Commissioner Ettinger stressed the importance of Veterans Affairs issues. Ms. Cini suggested that the Human Services Commission might be the place for action on Veterans issues. Commissioner Ettinger will do some research and if there are discriminatory issues related to veterans in Scottsdale, an item will be agendized for further discussion.

Further discussion ensued regarding discouraging prejudice and discrimination, the Unity Pledge, adoption of a non-discrimination law in Scottsdale, working in conjunction with the Scottsdale Chamber to offer awareness education and growth training to local medium sized businesses, conducting online survey panels, advertising for city events via banners and national events through brochures in partnership with the City libraries, marketing of events, and working with diversity partners to sponsor events in Scottsdale.

Commission members noted the various areas that they were interested in being involved individually.

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

Commissioner Ettinger requested that an item be agendized to discuss the idea of reciting the pledge of allegiance at the beginning of each Human Relations Commission meeting.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 9, 2017. Agenda item requests must be submitted to staff liaison no later than Monday, September 25, 2017.
ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, being duly moved and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 7:12 p.m.

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