PRESENT: Chairperson Janice Eng, Vice-Chair Denny Brown, Commissioners: James Campbell, Marty Day, Jayne Hubbard

ABSENT: Commissioners: Edmund Portnoy and Holly Snopko

STAFF: Greg Bestgen, Director; Managers Michelle Albanese, Tim Miluk, and Eugenio Munoz-Villafane, Manager; Human Service Specialist Sheila Williams, and Parks and Recreation Coordinator Jessica Rapp

Call to Order

Chairperson Eng called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m.

Roll Call

Members present as listed above.

1. **Open call to the Public**

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

2. **Approval of Minutes: November 9, 2017**

VICE-CHAIR BROWN MOVED TO APPROVE THE NOVEMBER 9, 2017 HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES. COMMISSIONER DAY SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED FIVE (5) TO ZERO (0).

3. **Vista del Camino Career Center Overview and Update**

Sheila Williams, Human Services Specialist, gave an overview of the career center services. The Career Center serves job seekers of all education levels, skill levels, and ages. Access is provided to computers, internet services, and copiers, and assistance with resumes, and workshops and one-one-one are available. Most services are available to anyone, however
there are a few offerings that are available only to Scottsdale residents because of the type of federal funding that is received. Scottsdale residents are offered employment support which includes bus passes, gas vouchers, career clothing, and tool vouchers. The Career Center works together with SUSD and Adaptive Services as well as other internal agencies to help people with intellectual challenges with the transition from school into the workforce. Ms. Williams reviewed the FY 2016/17 statistics for Career Center visits, successful employment, and job retention.

Commissioners were given an opportunity to ask questions. Ms. Williams explained that typically, employers approach the Career Center about hosting career events. The Career Center is connected with the Library's Eureka Loft program, but does not collaborate on programs. Ms. Williams said that they are not required to ask about citizenship, but those who do not have proper documentation are unlikely to become employed.

Vice-Chair Brown suggested that the Career Center form a partnership with EVIT. He talked about the EVIT program and the variance in cost for adult learners versus those who are still in high school. Ms. Williams noted that the Career Center has worked with EVIT in the past and does refer adults to WIOA training grants and COP Arizona At Work grants.

Ms. Williams continued her presentation with an outline of trends and opportunities, including technology education, onsite counselors, and volunteers.

Wanda Mills, Career Center Participant, discussed her educational and career background and talked about her experiences at the Career Center.

Chair Eng gave words of encouragement to Ms. Mills.

4. **Vista del Camino Food Bank Overview and Update**

Jessica Rapp, Parks and Recreation Coordinator, gave a presentation on the current services available to the public at Vista del Camino’s food bank as well as statistical information on food distribution, the Healthy Packs program and future upgrades to the food bank. Her presentation included food bank statistics, which includes the SUSD TEFAP program and Healthy Packs. Healthy Packs will be recognized during the upcoming Scottsdale Leadership luncheon. Food Bank partners and funding sources include Scottsdale Community Partners, Feeding America, St. Mary's Food Bank Alliance, United Food Bank, SUSD, and Tribal grants and donations.

Commissioners were given an opportunity to ask questions. Ms. Rapp said that there has been an increase in Healthy Pack participants since the beginning of the school year.

Eugenio Munoz-Villafane, Manager, talked about the growth of the Food Bank over recent years, growing from hundreds of packs to thousands of packs, and noting that surplus funding rolls to the next year. He thanked the Scottsdale Charros for their recent $2,500 donation.

Commissioners expressed an interest in touring the food pantry and warehouse. They agreed to take a tour of the food pantry following the meeting and to schedule a time for a tour of the warehouse.
5. **Yaqui Mural Project**

Greg Bestgen, Director, gave an update on the Yaqui Mural project status. He said that there was a proposal through the Human Relations Commission and Neighborhood Enhancement Partnership Program grant funds to do a project along the greenbelt somewhere and they identified the Yaqui Murals. He explained that the plan was to partner with the Yaqui Community to fund the project with matching funds grants. The Yaqui Community feels strongly that the original artist, Mario Martinez, should be the artist to work on the project. Mr. Martinez quoted a fee of $100,000, which would include his talent, supplies, and travel and board. Director Bestgen explained the relationship between the Yaquis and the Tribal Council. Part of the motivation to do the project is that the police department received a grant to install lighting in the area.

Commissioners were given an opportunity to ask questions. Mr. Munoz-Villafane gave the history of the Yaqui Tribe in Scottsdale and their contributions to the community and in particular to the development of Vista del Camino. Discussion ensued regarding suggestions for highlighting the contributions of the Yaquis to the community and to tourists. Suggestions included partnering with Experience Scottsdale and with Scottsdale Arts, and adding the location as a destination on tourist maps.

Director Bestgen noted that there are items left from the original project stored in a warehouse that are the property of the artist. Out of respect for the Yaqui Community, the City cannot hire another artist or move forward with the project. The Penjamo Yaqui Tribal Council has expressed its intention to have the mural completed by Mr. Mario Martinez, the original creator and artist of the mural.

6. **Staff and Commission**

Tim Miluk, Manager, gave a presentation on activities at Granite Reef Senior Center and Via Linda Senior Center. His presentation included statistics relating to the Adopt-a-Senior and Beat the Heat programs, and center attendance. He noted that the most important part of the programs is the opportunity for a social worker to assess the senior’s living situation. He commended the Scottsdale community for their generosity.

Mr. Miluk mentioned other programs that are available through the centers, including all levels of leisure education classes and special events including presentations, hikes, outings, Thanksgiving luncheon, Senior Expo, the holiday art show, and holiday parties. He highlighted the Thanksgiving dinners and the participation of the Police and Fire Departments.

Commissioner Day asked about the VA Housing application. Director Bestgen explained that a letter was drafted and sent in, but did not receive a response. When contacted by Michelle Albanese, the City’s Housing Manager, the VA cited concerns about Scottsdale’s limited supply of low-income and Section 8 housing availability. The VA also reported that many Veterans are difficult to place and that the VA does not currently have sufficient staff to oversee a program in Scottsdale.

Chair Eng said that photographs were taken of the McCormick-Stillman Railroad Park Scottsdale Cares event by a friend of hers. Director Bestgen said that the event raised
approximately $600 and was successful in raising awareness about the program. He opined that if Scottsdale citizens are educated about what the program is doing, they would be very generous.

Director Bestgen distributed a summary of the agency applications that were submitted for the coming year. The deficit between available funds and requests is approximately $640,000.

Mr. Munoz-Villafane said that the Fire Department’s Turkey Drive brought in enough turkeys to supply Thanksgiving and some of Christmas needs. Director Bestgen said that Police Chief Rodbell and the police chief in Paradise Valley had a competition and brought in approximately $1,200 in cash and about two tons of food.

7. **Adjournment**

With no further business to discuss, being duly moved and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 6:51 p.m.

Recorded and Transcribed by eScribers, LLC.