



**CITY OF SCOTTSDALE
HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING**

MINUTES

Monday, January 10, 2022

Scottsdale Fire Station 602 Community Room
7522 E Indian School Rd
Scottsdale, AZ 85251

PRESENT: Janice Shimokubo, Chair
Vice-Chair Emily Hinchman
James Eaneman
Hannellie Mendoza
Stuart Rhoden
Lawdan Shojaee

ABSENT: Marty Day

STAFF: Kelly Corsette
Brent Stockwell

GUEST: Dr. Scott Menzel, Scottsdale United School District

Call to Order/Roll Call

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

Public Comment

There were no public comments submitted.

1. Approval of minutes from the December 13, 2021 meeting

COMMISSIONER EANEMAN MOVED TO APPROVE THE DECEMBER 13, 2021 HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES. VICE-CHAIR HINCHMAN SECONDED

THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED SIX (6) TO ZERO (0). CHAIR SHIMOKUBO, VICE-CHAIR HINCHMAN, COMMISSIONERS EANEMAN, MENDOZA, RHODEN, AND SHOJAE VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

2. Nomination and election of Chair

Mr. Corsette recalled that during the December meeting a nomination was made to elect Emily Hinchman for the position of chair. No additional nominations were received.

COMMISSIONER EANEMAN NOMINATED EMILY HINCHMAN FOR THE POSITION OF CHAIR OF THE HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION. CHAIR SHIMOKUBO SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED SIX (6) TO ZERO (0). CHAIR SHIMOKUBO, VICE-CHAIR HINCHMAN, COMMISSIONERS EANEMAN, MENDOZA, RHODEN, AND SHOJAE VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

Chair Hinchman immediately took over the position of Chair and presided over the rest of the meeting.

3. Nomination and election of Vice Chair

Mr. Corsette recalled that during the December meeting a nomination was made to elect Janice Shimokubo for the position of vice chair. No additional nominations were received.

COMMISSIONER EANEMAN NOMINATED JANICE SHIMOKUBO FOR THE POSITION OF VICE CHAIR OF THE HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION. COMMISSIONER RHODEN SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED SIX (6) TO ZERO (0). CHAIR HINCHMAN, COMMISSIONERS SHIMOKUBO, EANEMAN, MENDOZA, RHODEN, AND SHOJAE VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

Vice-Chair Shimokubo immediately took over the position of Vice Chair.

4. Discussion and possible action to approve the Human Relations Commission 2021 Annual Report

COMMISSIONER EANEMAN MOVED TO APPROVE THE HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION 2021 ANNUAL REPORT AS PRESENTED. VICE-CHAIR SHIMOKUBO SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED SIX (6) TO ZERO (0). CHAIR HINCHMAN, VICE-CHAIR SHIMOKUBO, COMMISSIONERS EANEMAN, MENDOZA, RHODEN, AND SHOJAE VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

5. Presentation, discussion and possible recommendations with Scottsdale Unified School District Superintendent, Dr. Scott A. Menzel, regarding the December 9, 2021 letter to SUSD parents

This item was held out of order prior to the election of the new chair and vice chair.

Dr. Scott Menzel gave a presentation, outlining the reasons behind issuance of a letter to SUSD families on December 9, 2021. He said that the school district's legal counsel initially responded to public records requests and emails about GSA clubs and questions regarding the

structure of the clubs. At one point an article was published in the Arizona Daily Independent reporting information that was inaccurate/deliberately misleading about the purpose of the GSA clubs. In that same time frame, state representatives introduced legislation that would treat GSA clubs differently than other clubs, requiring parent permission slips for students to participate. The school district decided that it would be appropriate to issue a statement, clearly outlining SUSD's commitment to support each and every student in the district, explaining that clubs are student initiated and staff supported, and addressing accusations that GSA clubs are sexualizing middle school kids. The District has also addressed the inaccurate concept that gender binary is a white supremacist concept.

Dr. Menzel said he was grateful that the Human Relations Commission issued a letter in response to the situation, because it is important for the community to know that the City stands in support of the School District taking a strong stance for inclusion and support for all students.

Commissioners were given an opportunity to ask questions. Dr. Menzel said that he has received mixed reactions to the letter issued to families. Many people have expressed support, but others are trying to frame the situation as part of an effort to sexualize students. He noted that the District has made it clear that critical race theory is not a part of the SUSD curriculum.

Chair Hinchman asked staff to convey Dr. Menzel's comments to City Council members in hopes that it will answer questions they had regarding the situation.

Commissioners briefly discussed ways in which the HRC can educate the community regarding GSA clubs and supporting students. Chair Shimokubo commented that one way the Commission can help is by continuing to show that Scottsdale is a welcoming community and a Golden Rule City, as well as finding opportunities to weave in concepts and clarify terms. She noted that the community Town Hall, scheduled for January 17, 2022, at Horizon Community Center, will include a portion for students 15 years old and up.

6. Presentation, discussion and possible recommendations regarding the Human Relations Commission's Outstanding 2021 Strategic Initiative

Mr. Corsette announced that the Town Hall is planned for Monday, January 17, 2022 at Horizon Community Center, starting at 3:30 p.m. The topic is "Chaos or community: What can Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s work and writings teach us now?" Currently, 22 adults and three teenagers are registered to participate. The session will be videoed and posted following the event and five copies of the book "Chaos or community: What can Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s work and writings teach us now?" will be given out during the event. Publicity efforts will continue throughout the remainder of the week.

Commissioners asked to have the graphics for the event distributed to them for them to promote through their own social networks.

7. Presentation, discussion and possible recommendations regarding the Human Relations Commission's 2022 Strategic Initiatives

- a. Review draft Working Document from December planning session

Vice-Chair Shimokubo recapped the draft working document resulting from the recent HRC strategic planning session. She made suggestions for initiatives that could be incorporated into other strategic initiatives and suggested amending the term "diversity partners" to "partners." Examples included combining the following initiatives with another initiative:

- Anti-discrimination license plates
- Outreach organizations
- Recommending that Council support the ADO in every public speech
- Partner with SUSD and other youth groups

It was the consensus of the Commission to make amendments as outlined by Vice-Chair Shimokubo.

- b. Assign Commissioners to 2022 Strategic Initiatives

Commissioners reviewed the list of strategic initiative assignments. Mr. Stockwell reiterated the Open Meeting law rules. He noted that Commissioners are able to meet one on one with another Commissioner and/or staff to discuss specific topics as needed, as long as the discussion does not inadvertently become a subcommittee. The Commission has the ability to discuss any of the strategic initiatives as a group, as long as it is properly agendized.

Commissioners were asked to review and prioritize tactics, define goals, and be prepared to share recommendations during the February 14, 2022 meeting.

8. Updates, discussion and possible recommendations regarding recent and upcoming diversity and inclusion-related activities and incidents impacting the city of Scottsdale

Mr. Corsette gave an update on the Regional Unity Walk events. He said that this year's event will be similar to the one last year, in that the event will be a distributed month-long collection of different events throughout the East Valley. Events occurring in Scottsdale include the MLK Dinner, hosted by Communities Celebrating Diversity and the City of Scottsdale on January 12, 2022 from 5:30 to 7:30 and the Town Hall "Chaos or community: What can Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s work and writings teach us now?" on January 17, 2022.

He encouraged Commissioners to attend the virtual Regional Human Relations Commission meeting is scheduled for January 27, 2022, starting at 6:00 p.m. Participating cities include Mesa, Chandler, Tempe, Phoenix, Fountain Hills, and Scottsdale.

9. Identification of Future Agenda Items

Upcoming meetings will include:

- 2022 Strategic Initiatives
- Diversity Director introduction

The next meeting is scheduled for February 14, 2022.

10. Adjournment

COMMISSIONER EANEMAN MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. VICE-CHAIR SHIMOKUBO SECONDED THE MOTION. NO VOTE WAS TAKEN.

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

Recorded and Transcribed by eScribers, LLC.