



Human Relations Commission
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Tucson Human Relations Commission MINUTES

The regular meeting of the Tucson Human Relations Commission was called to order by Chair Glenn Howell, on Wednesday, **March 14, 2007**, at 5:36 p.m., in the Mayor and Council Conference Room of City Hall (1st Floor), 255 W. Alameda, Tucson, Arizona.

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

Members Present:

Martha Gabusi Taylor
Victor Flores
Joe Yee, Vice Chair
Timothy Dunne
Mitchell Dorson
Glenn Howell, Chair
Sat Bir Kaur Khalsa, Treasurer
Ana "Bertie" Lozano

Representing:

Mayor (departed at 6:40 p.m.)
Ward 1 (arrived at 5:53 p.m.)
Ward 2
Ward 3 (departed at 6:59 p.m.)
Ward 4
Ward 5
Ward 6
GLBT Commission (arrived at 6:01 p.m.)

Members Absent:

None

Representing:

Others Present:

Shawna Lee, Recording Secretary, City Clerk's Office
Cynthia Jacobs, City Clerk's Office
Adams Osuz, Foundation for Intercultural Dialogue

2. Approval of Minutes – February 14, 2007

Chair Howell confirmed that everyone had a chance to review the minutes.

It was moved by Ms. Taylor, duly seconded and carried by a voice vote of 6 to 0 (Mr. Flores and Ms. Lozano absent), to approve the minutes as presented.

3. Chairman's Summary of Current Events – Information Only (Glenn)

Chair Howell reported on his attendance at the Tucson Urban League 35th Gala. He said he would like to collaborate with Tucson Urban League on future forums, and increase attendance at next year's event with the goal of networking.

Chair Howell also said his wife's magazine, Tucson Sport, published portions of the winning essays from the Martin Luther King, Jr. Essay Contest, and might publish an article on the Ray Davies Humanitarian Award event.

4. Treasurer's Report (Sat Bir)

Ms. Khalsa introduced the Treasurer's Report. She asked if there was anything that needed to be added.

Staff announced that at the February meeting, the Commission approved purchasing advertising space in the program for the Tucson Urban League 35th Gala. However, ad space was not available for purchase, so that expenditure was not made.

It was moved by Mr. Dorson, duly seconded and passed by a roll call vote of 6 to 0 (Mr. Flores and Ms. Lozano absent), to approve the report as presented.

5. Invitations/Requests for Financial Support

b. Intercultural Dialogue Association request for support of Event in April (Sat Bir)

(Note: This Item was taken out of order.)

Ms. Khalsa introduced Adams Osuz, from the Foundation for Intercultural Dialogue.

Mr. Osuz provided information on the Whirling Dervishes of Rumi performance on April 7, 2007. He said the Foundation for Intercultural Dialogue was requesting a financial contribution, and use of the Commission's mailing list and logo for promoting the event.

It was moved by Ms. Khalsa, duly seconded, to approve providing two hundred dollars and use of the Commission's logo and mailing list to the Foundation for Intercultural Dialogue for promotion of the Whirling Dervishes of Rumi performance.

Chair Howell requested the motion be amended to include the stipulation that the Foundation for Intercultural Dialogue reciprocate support of future events planned by the Commission. Amendment accepted by the maker of the motion, and by the Commissioner who seconded it.

The amended motion passed by a roll call vote of 6 to 0 (Mr. Flores and Ms. Lozano absent).

Staff was directed to add the contact information of agencies assisted by the Commission to the Commission's mailing list.

a. Request from International Aids Candlelight Memorial Planning Committee (Sat Bir)

Ms. Khalsa presented a request from the International AIDS Candlelight Memorial Planning Committee.

It was moved by Ms. Taylor, duly seconded, and passed by a roll call vote of 6 to 0 (Mr. Flores abstained, and Ms. Lozano absent), to approve use of the

Commission's logo, a donation of two hundred dollars, and requesting a Proclamation from the Mayor's Office for the 2007 International AIDS Candlelight Memorial.

b. Intercultural Dialogue Association request for support of Event in April (Sat Bir)

(Note: This Item was taken out of order and considered after Item 4.)

c. Chicanos Por La Causa Tucson 27th Annual Anniversary Dinner on June 7, 2007 (Glenn)

Chair Howell referred to the Save the Date card received from Chicanos Por La Causa. He reminded the Commission that this event was held at Desert Diamond Casino last year.

Discussion ensued regarding who would attend this year's event.

It was moved by Ms. Taylor, duly seconded, and passed by a roll call vote of 7 to 0 (Ms. Lozano absent) to purchase two to four tickets at a cost of one hundred-fifty dollars each, and a quarter-page advertisement, pending further information from Chicanos Por La Causa.

Staff was directed to request more information from Chicanos Por La Causa and report back at the next meeting.

d. Women's Foundation of Southern Arizona annual luncheon on April 17, 2007 (Sat Bir)

Ms. Khalsa said she received an invitation to this event, but did not have it with her.

Chair Howell asked which Commissioners wished to attend.

It was moved by Chair Howell, duly seconded, and passed by a roll call vote of 8 to 0, to purchase one ticket to the Women's Foundation of Southern Arizona annual luncheon, at a cost of fifty dollars.

9. Event and Award Honoring Ray Davies (Martha)

(Note: This item was taken out of order.)

a. Report from Subcommittee

Ms. Taylor provided the following report on the Ray Davies Subcommittee meeting held Tuesday, March 13, 2007, and other details updated since then:

- Chair Howell was pursuing donation of desserts, and he also called Pastor Raven Gaston from Catalina United Methodist Church. The church would not be able to assist with servers or linens.
- Chair Howell suggested allocating two hundred dollars for miscellaneous expenses such as flowers, dessert and other items the Commission is unable to obtain donation of.

- Chair Howell recommended having members of the Pima Community College football team contribute community service hours to help at the event.
- The remaining items to secure were flowers, dessert and table linens.

Staff provided the following updates from conversations with Ray Davies:

- Mr. Davies was contacting Wild Oats and Rincon Market for donation of desserts. He said Albertson's had donated desserts in the past, so he was going to contact them, too. Staff directed Mr. Davies to speak with Chair Howell, so their efforts were coordinated.
- Mr. Davies provided a list of people who should receive invitations and RSVP forms.

b. Discussion and Event Planning

Ms. Lozano suggested seeking donation of table linens from Humberto Lopez, who owns Hotel Arizona. Ms. Khalsa volunteered to contact Mr. Lopez.

Ms. Taylor announced that Mr. Dunne arranged for book awards to be donated for the top three winners.

Mr. Dunne said El Charro restaurant was also donating lunch with Mayor Robert E. Walkup, who would be in attendance.

Discussion ensued regarding the program for the event.

Chair Howell agreed to ask Pastor Gaston about providing a brief welcome from the church during the program.

Vice Chair Yee said Mr. Davies spoke with Ted Ramirez, who agreed to provide music for the event. Vice Chair Yee would follow up with Mr. Ramirez.

Chair Howell asked staff to prepare a list of dignitaries who would be in attendance, to welcome them individually.

Mr. Flores suggested having a Native American blessing or convocation at the beginning of the program. Chair Howell said he would ask Pastor Gaston about a non-denominational blessing.

Ms. Taylor said she would ask Mayor Walkup to provide an introduction of Mr. Davies. If the Mayor declined, she would ask Claire Scheuren, who is a former Commissioner and friend of Mr. Davies.

Chair Howell said he would ask Steve Alley, from the Community Foundation for Southern Arizona, to speak about the Rosa Parks Scholarship Fund.

Staff was instructed to ensure the Educational Enrichment Foundation (EEF) was invited.

Mr. Dorson offered to contact the parents and counselors of the winners to ensure the students attended the event.

Staff was asked to check on whether City staff could receive Rosa Parks Scholarship Fund donations made at the event.

Ms. Khalsa volunteered to help design the program.

Ms. Taylor announced the next Subcommittee meeting would be on Sunday, April 1, 2007, when the applications would be judged.

Staff was directed to obtain information about Ray Davies from the EEF's program for their Ray Davies Humanitarian Award event.

c. Budget Expenditure for Prizes and/or Supplies

It was moved by Mr. Dunne, duly seconded, and passed by a roll call vote of 8 to 0, to approve allocation of two hundred dollars for miscellaneous expenses, and to allow further non-financial decisions to be made at the discretion of the Subcommittee.

6. Requests for Non-Financial Support

This item was not considered.

7. Reports from Other Commissions

a. Commission on Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Issues (Glenn)

Chair Howell announced his appointment to GLBT was expiring, but he was willing to be reappointed if no one else was interested. He said members should express their interest at the next Commission meeting.

b. Commission on Disability Issues (Robert Blizzard)

Written report received; no action taken.

8. MLK Essay Contest – follow-up (Sat Bir)

a. Expenditure for Alternative Award(s)

Ms. Khalsa said Mr. Dunne inquired about purchasing Savings Bonds for two of the Essay Contest winners who did not have Social Security Numbers.

Mr. Dunne said it was not possible; Social Security Numbers were required to purchase Savings Bonds.

Ms. Khalsa said alternative awards would need to be determined.

Mr. Dunne said he would contact Tucson Mall about options for getting gift cards to the students without the City taking possession of the gift cards.

It was moved by Chair Howell, duly seconded, and passed by a roll call vote of 7 to 0 (Ms. Taylor absent), to purchase two gift cards to Tucson Mall in amounts corresponding to the savings bonds that would have been purchased for the two students without Social Security Numbers.

Staff was directed to proceed with purchasing Savings Bonds for the remaining students.

9. Event and Award Honoring Ray Davies (Martha)

(Note: This item was taken out of order and considered after Item 5d.)

- a. **Report from Subcommittee**
- b. **Discussion and Event Planning**
- c. **Budget Expenditure for Prizes and/or Supplies**

10. Community Outreach Subcommittee (Sat Bir)

Ms. Khalsa said she and Vice Chair Yee made a list of items to include in an outreach letter, but that list was presented at a previous meeting and was not included in the material for this meeting. She said this item should be continued to the next meeting, and requested staff to provide the list once again.

17. Rosa Parks Scholarship Fund (Glenn)

(Note: This item was taken out of order.)

Mr. Dunne directed the Commission's attention to a letter from Community Foundation for Southern Arizona (CFSA), included in the meeting materials. He said previous conversations indicated a desire to award the full amount available from the Rosa Parks Scholarship Fund. He asked if anything had been established to accomplish this.

Ms. Khalsa said the Commission did not award the scholarships. CFSA handled the applications for, and distribution of, funds.

Mr. Dunne said no funds had been given out in some time.

Ms. Khalsa said CFSA reported this was because no applications were received.

Mr. Dunne asked for a discussion at the next meeting regarding stimulating interest in the Rosa Parks Scholarship Fund.

11. Budget Subcommittee (Sat Bir)

Ms. Khalsa announced the Commission would not receive its requested budget increase.

Chair Howell read aloud the email sent by Roger Randolph, Chief Deputy City Clerk, explaining that the City would not accept requests for funding increases for Commissions until February 2008. Chair Howell said the Commission would continue to resubmit its request.

12. Discussion of Interns or Other Support to Assist the Human Relations Commission (Joe)

Vice Chair Yee said he spoke with Robert Blizzard, from the Commission on Disability Issues, regarding interns. Mr. Blizzard had experience with internships in Seattle, and said the Commission would need to create a job description and work schedule, provide

a work station with necessary supplies, identify a supervisor, and look into Liability Insurance.

Vice Chair Yee said the Liability Insurance may be provided by the school from which the intern is selected. He suggested contacting certain departments at the University of Arizona and Pima Community College, to see if a department head or dean was interested in providing an internship for one of the students.

Chair Howell directed Commissioners to identify potential contacts for interns, and provide the information to staff, for forwarding to Vice Chair Yee.

This item was continued to the next meeting.

13. Budget Expenditure for “Us and Them” Teaching Tolerance Program (Mitch)

This item was continued to the next meeting.

14. Rabbi Bilgray Award (Glenn)

(Note: This item was discussed in conjunction with Item 15)

Chair Howell said the Commission was considering presenting the Rabbi Bilgray Award at the Freedom Seder, but the Freedom Seder committee declined. He said the Commission would need to consider other venues at which the award could be presented.

Chair Howell said if members of the Commission had connections with other groups, they should see if those other groups would be receptive to allowing the Commission to present the Rabbi Bilgray and Stanley Feldman Awards at one of their events.

Staff was requested to provide the Commission with information on the history and criteria of the two awards.

15. Stanley Feldman Award (Tim)

(Note: This item was discussed in conjunction with Item 14.)

18. Annual Retreat (Sat Bir)

(Note: This item was taken out of order.)

Ms. Khalsa said Subcommittee members were needed to help plan the Commission’s annual retreat.

Mr. Dorson, Mr. Flores, and Ms. Khalsa were identified as Subcommittee members.

Chair Howell said he wanted to revisit the goals from last year’s retreat, and evaluate the Commission’s accomplishments.

16. Reciprocation of Support with Other Organizations (Victor)

Mr. Flores said he and Ms. Taylor created a list of organizations to which a letter would be sent, seeking the collaboration towards common goals and reciprocation of support between the other organizations and the Commission. Part of this would include inviting

groups to Commission meetings to present information about their own mission, and learn about the Commission's goals and functions in return.

He said he thought his and Ms. Taylor's efforts were being duplicated by the Community Outreach Subcommittee, and the two items could be combined.

Staff was directed to add a standing agenda item, for two outside agencies to provide an informational presentation to the Commission each month.

Mr. Flores offered to identify which groups would be scheduled for presentations each month. He said he would provide staff with the list of organizations, and the letter he and Ms. Taylor drafted, to be forwarded to the Community Outreach Subcommittee.

17. Rosa Parks Scholarship Fund (Glenn)

(Note: This item was taken out of order and considered after Item 10.)

18. Annual Retreat (Sat Bir)

(Note: This item was taken out of order and considered after Item 15.)

19. Upcoming Events - Attendees and Alternates (Glenn)

This item was not considered.

20. Call to Audience

No speakers were present.

21. Future Agenda Items – Information Only

- Days of Remembrance Proclamation
- Support of "Divided We Fall" movie presentation

22. Adjournment (7:10 p.m.)