



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 P. Howell on **Wednesday, August 20, 2008**, at 5:34 p.m., in the Mayor and Council Conference Room, 1st Floor, City Hall, 255 W. Alameda, Tucson, Arizona.

### 1. **Call to Order/Roll Call**

Members Present:

Martha Gabusi Taylor  
Victor Flores  
Joe Yee, Vice Chair  
Maritza Broce  
Glenn Howell, Chair  
Sat Bir Kaur Khalsa, Treasurer  
Al Whitehurst

Representing:

Mayor  
Ward 1  
Ward 2  
Ward 3  
Ward 5  
Ward 6  
GLBT Commission (departed at 6:35 p.m.)

Members Absent:

None

Representing:

Others Present:

Rolanda Mazeika, Recording Secretary, City Clerk's Office

### 2. **Approval of Minutes – Regular Minutes of June 11, 2008**

It was moved by Vice Chair Yee, duly seconded, and carried by a voice vote of 7 to 0, to approve the regular minutes of June 11, 2008.

### 3. **Chairman's Summary of Current Events – Information Only**

Chair Howell introduced newly appointed commissioner, Maritza Broce.

### 9. **MLK Essay Contest**

(This item taken out of order)

Clarence Boykins, President, Tucson-Southern Arizona Black Chamber of Commerce (TSABCC), explained the 2009 commemoration of Martin Luther King, Jr. (MLK Jr.) would be combined with the 100th Anniversary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) to be held on February 12, 2009. He said the HRC's involvement in the essay contest was important and he outlined the areas the HRC's assistance was needed.

Mr. Boykins asked the commission to develop the essay contest questions combining the achievements of MLK Jr. and the NAACP and decide who would evaluate the entries. He asked the commission to keep the rules and guidelines simple and said he would work on marketing and promotion of the essay contest. He said he would assist the commission if it wanted to award prizes, but he needed ample time to work on any items with commission wanted his assistance with.

Commissioner Khalsa noted the contest winners would be presented at the MLK Jr. Breakfast on January 15, 2009.

Mr. Boykins also announced the NAACP was asking organizations that dealt with human and civil rights issues to participate in the MLK Jr./NAACP 100th Year Anniversary celebration by holding panel discussions and forums during the week of February 6 to February 10, 2009. He noted there were ongoing discussions, training, and forums that were being held from now to February 2009 that were planned as part of the MLK Jr./NAACP 100th Year Anniversary celebration. He also announced there would be a meeting on August 26, 2008 at the TSABCC to discuss the ongoing celebration planning.

Mr. Boykins said he would review the essay rules before they were sent to schools and he and the commission could decide who to send them to. He noted he would create the letter that would be distributed to the schools and he would establish a timeline for the contest. He agreed to send out the letters soliciting entries for the commission.

Chair Howell announced Commissioner Khalsa would chair the MLK Jr. Essay Contest Subcommittee.

Commissioner Khalsa said the commission needed to have the items Mr. Boykins requested worked out by the commission's September meeting and asked for volunteers for the subcommittee.

Chair Howell and Commissioner Flores volunteered to sit on the subcommittee to help develop the essay contest and the prizes. The first subcommittee meeting would be held on August 29, 2008 at Borders bookstore.

Commissioner Whitehurst also announced a Wingspan volunteer offered to publicize the essay contest. Commissioner Khalsa said she would provide the essay contest information to Commissioner Whitehurst at the September meeting.

#### **4. Upcoming Events - Attendees and Alternates**

Commissioner Flores announced the Tucson Juneteenth Festival was coming up. Chair Howell suggested the commission reach out to the Festival Committee to offer support or assistance in the future.

#### **6. Requests for Financial Support**

(This item taken out of order)

##### **a. 20th Anniversary Wingspan Annual Benefit Dinner**

It was moved by Commissioner Taylor, duly seconded, to purchase of two tickets for the 20th Anniversary Wingspan Annual Benefit Dinner.

Chair Howell asked for a roll call vote. Upon roll call, the results were:

Aye: Commissioners Broce, Flores, Khalsa, Taylor and Whitehurst; Vice Chair Yee and Chair Howell

Nay: None

Motion to approve the purchase of two tickets for the 20th Anniversary Wingspan Annual Benefit Dinner passed by a roll call vote of 7 to 0.

**b. Educational Enrichment Foundation 10th Annual Ray Davies Lifetime Humanitarian Achievement Award Luncheon**

It was moved by Commissioner Khalsa, duly seconded, to purchase two tickets for the Educational Enrichment Foundation 10th Annual Ray Davies Lifetime Humanitarian Achievement Award Luncheon.

Chair Howell asked for a roll call vote. Upon roll call, the results were:

Aye: Commissioners Broce, Flores, Khalsa, Taylor and Whitehurst; Vice Chair Yee and Chair Howell

Nay: None

Motion to purchase two tickets for the Educational Enrichment Foundation 10th Annual Ray Davies Lifetime Humanitarian Achievement Award Luncheon passed by a roll call vote of 7 to 0.

**c. 2008 YWCA Tucson's 20th Annual Women's Leadership Conference**

Commissioners discussed whether the conference's topics related to the commission's goals and mission. No action was taken.

**5. Treasurer's Report**

It was moved by Chair Howell, duly seconded, to approve the Treasurer's report.

Chair Howell asked for a roll call vote. Upon roll call, the results were:

Aye: Commissioners Broce, Flores, Khalsa, Taylor and Whitehurst; Vice Chair Yee and Chair Howell

Nay: None

Motion to approve the report passed by a roll call vote of 7 to 0.

(Commissioner Whitehurst departed at 6:35 p.m.)

**7. Subcommittee Reports**

**a. Awards**

Chair Howell announced talks for a possible awards event venue were discontinued due to the complicated logistics. He said he would continue to search for an awards event venue. He also announced he would discuss how

the Bilgray family wanted to proceed with the Rabbi Bilgray Make a Difference Award.

**b. Public Relations and Collaboration**

Chair Howell announced he had contacted the Tucson Urban League for a possible collaboration.

**9. MLK Essay Contest**

(This item taken out of order)

Commissioner Khalsa volunteered to attend the MLK Jr./NAACP 100th Year Anniversary celebration meeting the following week.

Commissioner Taylor suggested the commission consider sponsoring a discussion on criminal jurisdiction on Native American reservations. Commissioners discussed the logistics and complexity of sponsoring such a discussion.

Commissioner Taylor then suggested the commission consider sponsoring a slideshow and discussion on Native American discrimination issues. She offered to initiate contact with a potential moderator.

**7. Subcommittee Reports**

**c. Ray Davies Student Service Awards**

(Commissioner Yee departed at 6:50 p.m. and returned at 6:52 p.m.)

Chair Howell requested Ms. Mazeika send Commissioner Broce a list of the commission's subcommittees and members.

Commissioner Taylor indicated she would send a thank you letter to Tim Dunne for his assistance with the 2008 Ray Davies Student Service Awards.

**d. Retreat**

No report was given.

**e. Advisory Positions**

(Items 7e and 10 were considered simultaneously)

**10. Role and Tasks of Advisory Position Member**

(Items 7e and 10 were considered simultaneously)

Chair Howell announced the potential advisory position member, Yahya Yuksel, had indicated an interest in working with the commission and he asked what tasks the commission would like to assign to Mr. Yuksel.

Vice Chair Yee said he thought Mr. Yuksel needed to attend meetings to understand what the commission was about.

It was moved by Commissioner Taylor, duly seconded, and passed by a voice vote of 6 to 0, to appoint Yahya Yuksel as an advisory position member to the Tucson Human Relations Commission.

Vice Chair Yee offered to contact Jolee Follet, who had also expressed interest in serving as an advisory position member to the HRC.

**11. Commission Vacancies**

(This item taken out of order)

Chair Howell announced the commission needed to appoint another commissioner to serve as the commission's GLBT representative.

**8. Election of Officers**

(This item taken out of order)

Commissioners discussed the HRC's bylaws regarding election of the offices of chair, vice chair, and treasurer.

Commissioner Taylor nominated Sat Bir Kaur Khalsa as chair, Glenn P. Howell as vice chair, and Victor Flores as treasurer. Commissioner Yee seconded the nomination.

Chair Howell asked for a roll call vote. Upon roll call, the results were:

Aye: Commissioners Broce, Flores, Khalsa, and Taylor;  
Vice Chair Yee and Chair Howell

Nay: None

Absent: Commissioner Whitehurst (departed at 6:35 p.m.)

Election of Sat Bir Kaur Khalsa as chair, Glenn P. Howell as vice chair, and Victor Flores as treasurer passed by a roll call vote of 6 to 0.

**17. Adjournment 6:59 p.m.**

**12. Distribution of Materials to Youths Nominated for HRC Awards**

(Item not considered due to adjournment)

**13. Review of Commission Bylaws**

(Item not considered due to adjournment)

**14. Reports from Other Commissions**

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

(Item not considered due to adjournment)

**15. Call to Audience**

(Item not considered due to adjournment)

**16. Future Agenda Items – Information Only**

(Item not considered due to adjournment)