



Human Relations Commission  
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The regular meeting of the Tucson Human Relations Commission was called to order by Chair Sat Bir Khalsa on **Wednesday, October 8, 2008**, at 5:31 p.m., in the Mayor and Council Conference Room, 1st Floor, City Hall, 255 W. Alameda, Tucson, Arizona.

## MINUTES

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

Members Present:

Victor Flores, Treasurer  
Joe Yee  
Maritza Broce  
Glenn Howell, Vice Chair  
Sat Bir Kaur Khalsa, Chair  
Al Whitehurst  
Yahya Yuksel

Representing:

Ward 1  
Ward 2  
Ward 3 (Departed at 6:36 p.m.)  
Ward 5  
Ward 6  
GLBT Commission  
Non-Voting Advisory Member (Arrived at 5:42 p.m.,  
Departed at 6:36 p.m.)

Members Absent:

Martha Gabusi Taylor

Representing:

Mayor

Others Present:

Karen Dayton, Recording Secretary, City Clerk's Office

### 2. **MLK Jr. Essay Contest**

Chair Khalsa said the commission would review the questions for the 2009 MLK Essay Contest. None of the commissioners had the questions.

It was moved by Vice Chair Howell, duly seconded, and carried by a voice vote of 6-0, to call a recess as staff retrieved the 2009 MLK Essay Contest questions.

It was moved by Vice Chair Howell, duly seconded, and carried by a voice vote of 6-0, to reconvene the meeting (Commissioner Taylor absent/excused).

Roll call - A quorum was established.

Chair Khalsa asked the Commissioners to read over the questions.

Vice Chair Howell asked if there was a list of schools that the commission would be sending the questions to.

Chair Khalsa stated that Clarence Boykins, Tucson Southern Arizona Black Chamber of Commerce (TSABCC) President, had the list.

Vice Chair Howell asked if the list was in an electronic format.

Chair Khalsa stated that Mr. Boykins had a current updated list because of the rest of the project that would be going on. A discussion ensued.

It was moved by Vice Chair Howell, duly seconded, and carried by a voice vote of 6-0, to approve the MLK Essay Contest questions (Commissioner Taylor absent/excused).

A discussion ensued.

Victor Flores, Treasurer, stated that Mr. Boykins had said in the August 20, 2008, meeting that the TSABCC would be giving prizes to winners and the Human Relations Commission would continue to present the plaques and certificates to the winners, finalist, and participants. Mr. Flores said he was not aware of what the prizes were. A discussion ensued.

It was moved by Vice Chair Howell, duly seconded, to approve plaques and certificates budget to \$350.

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

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

Nay: None

Motion to approve the plaques and certificates budget to \$350 passed by a roll call vote of 6 to 0 (Commissioner Taylor absent/excused).

**3. Approval of Minutes – Regular Minutes of August 20, 2008 and September 10, 2008**

It was moved by Vice Chair Howell, duly seconded, and carried by a voice vote of 6 to 0 (Commissioner Taylor absent/excused), to approve the regular minutes of August 20, 2008.

It was moved by Vice Chair Howell, duly seconded, and carried by a voice vote of 6 to 0 (Commissioner Taylor absent/excused), to approve the regular minutes of September 10, 2008.

**4. Chairman’s Summary of Current Events – Information Only**

Chair Khalsa reviewed notices and past events.

**5. Upcoming Events - Attendees and Alternates**

**a. Foundation for Intercultural Dialogue**

Chair Khalsa said the Foundation for Intercultural Dialogue would host a Post-Ramadan dinner where they would bring people together at the University of Arizona ballroom. There was no charge for the dinner but they were accepting donations. The event would be October 18<sup>th</sup>. A discussion ensued.

**b. Philanthropy Awards – Association of Fundraising Professionals**

Chair Khalsa had received an invitation for the Philanthropy Awards being held at La Paloma on November 6<sup>th</sup>. The event was cosponsored by the Community Foundation of Arizona. A discussion ensued.

**6. Treasurer’s Report**

Commissioner Flores asked if the Commission was in favor of looking into purchasing a laptop, projector, and flash drive for use in presentations. Discussion ensued.

It was moved by Vice Chair Howell, duly seconded, to approve the Treasurer’s Report.

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

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

Nay: None

Motion to approve the Treasurer’s Report passed by a roll call vote of 6 to 0 (Commissioner Taylor absent/excused).

**7. Requests for Financial Support**

No discussion

**8. Subcommittee Reports**

**a. Awards** – Commissioner Howell said the Stanley Feldman and Rabbi Bilgray Awards should be presented at a future Mayor and Council meeting by the Spring of 2009. One issue to be resolved was getting information out regarding nominations for the awards via Community Service announcements. Discussion held, no action taken. The Commission asked staff to distribute the criteria for each award.

**b. Public Relations and Collaboration** – The NAACP 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Subcommittee was formed with Commissioner Broce, serving as Chair of the Subcommittee, and Commissioners’ Khalsa, Flores, and Howell. Discussion ensued.

**c. Ray Davies Student Service Awards** – Vice Chair Howell asked if anyone was interested in tickets to the Education Enrichment Foundation 10th Annual Ray Davies Lifetime Humanitarian Achievement Award Luncheon held on October 23, 2008. Chair Khalsa and Commissioner Yee said they would attend the luncheon.

**d. Retreat** – Chair Khalsa was in favor of a future retreat to put together a power point presentation. Commissioner Flores said the Commission needed to be prepared if they were to do a presentation to the public. Vice Chair Howell suggested during the retreat discussing future events of the Human Relations Commission for 2009. Discussion ensued. Commissioner Broce asked for a history of the commission. Discussion ensued. Chair Khalsa stated she would be on the Retreat Subcommittee.

- e. **Advisory Positions** – Commissioner Yee did not hear from his recommendation. Chair Khalsa asked Mr. Yuksel if he knew of any people interested in an Ex-Officio position on the Commission. Discussion ensued.

**9. Commission Vacancies**

Chair Khalsa said that Mr. Yuksel was applying for the Ward 4 vacancy. Commissioner Yee suggested that Chair Khalsa draft a letter of recommendation to Council Member Scott recommending Mr. Yuksel as the Ward 4 representative.

Vice Chair Howell said the HRC needed to appoint someone to the Commission on Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender (GLBT). Commissioner Whitehurst said the GLBT met on the third Wednesday of the month, 5:30 p.m. at the Equal Opportunity Office Conference Room at the Pioneer Hotel. Discussion ensued.

Chair Khalsa asked Ms. Dayton to check and see if Commissioners could rotate attending GLBT meetings every month.

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

Chair Khalsa asked Ms. Dayton to review this item with Ms. Mazeika.

**12. Reports from Other Commissions (Taken out of order)**

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

Commissioner Whitehurst said the issue the GLBT had talked about at their last meeting was the pending appointment of Patrick Kelly as the new Fire Chief. Vice Chair Howell stated he was on the questioning panel of the GLBT to question candidates. He advised that the chair of the GLBT set up an appointment with Patrick Kelly as soon as possible to review current and past issues. Discussion ensued.

Commissioner Whitehurst said vendor compliance had been another concern of the GLBT Commission. The City of Tucson operated by some non-discrimination policies. However, the vendors who contract with the City are not required to abide by the City policies. Discussion ensued.

Commissioner Whitehurst said the GLBT Commission was thinking of seeking a joint commission with the City of Tucson and Pima County. The GLBT scope of activities had extended past the Tucson City Limits. Discussion ensued.

Vice Chair Howell asked if the Employees Combined Appeal Program (ECAP) issue had been resolved. Commissioner Whitehurst said that it had been set aside. Discussion ensued.

Commissioner Broce departed at 6:36 p.m.

**11. Review of Commission Bylaws**

Vice Chair Howell said the commission would like staff to research if the length of term for commissioners acting at chair, vice chair, and treasurer could be extended. Discussion ensued.

**13. Call to Audience**

No one spoke.

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

Purchase of laptop, projector and flash drive for Commission use.  
Building Inclusive Communities

**15. Adjournment** 6:53 p.m.

It was moved by Vice Chair Howell, duly seconded, and carried by a voice vote of 5 to 0  
(Commissioner Taylor and Broce absent/excused).