

**Regional Human Relations Commission
August 31, 2017 Minutes**

The Regional Human Relations Commission (HRC) met on August 31, 2017 at 6:00pm at the Arizona Museum of Natural History- Starlight Room (53 N Macdonald).

MEMBERS PRESENT

Cliff Moon – Chair
Colleen Byron- Vice Chair
Joseph Holmes
Winnie Kaplan
Nadia Khalighi
Cassandra Sampson
Silvia Stanford
Keola Tweedy
Louis Wade

MEMBERS ABSENT

Robert Martinez
Mark Tompert

STAFF PRESENT

Bethany Freeland
Ruth Giese
Mayor John Giles

GUESTS

Dr. Neal Lester
Representatives of
Chandler, Gilbert,
Phoenix, Scottsdale,
and Tempe HRC's

1. Chair's Call to Order.

Dr. Moon called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

2. Opening remarks from Mayor John Giles.

Mayor Giles spoke to the commissions about the importance of their work. He explained that addressing topics of diversity is a critical task, especially in today's political climate. He thanked everyone for being present.

3. Items from Citizens Present. *

There were no citizens present to speak to the group.

4. Presentation on Implicit Bias by guest speaker Dr. Neal Lester.

Dr. Lester addressed the group about the subjects of bias and privilege. He explained that privilege is something that each of us carries around like a backpack. Every single person experiences some type of privilege and it is important to know what yours is. He also explained that privilege and bias can be seen all over in our society in blatant and subtle ways. He gave examples of types of individuals included in marketing materials and how that relates making each of us feel valid or invalid. This was meant to help the Commissions better understand equity, fairness, and awareness of cultural sensitivity. He also played a game called "Improbable Headlines" that the group enjoyed.

5. Discuss Items:

(5a) Updates on current Human Relations Commission programs and activities.

A brief overview of programs and projects, both past and present, that were presented by representatives of each HRC:

Chandler:

- Mariachi Festival 9/30/2017
- Race for Unity 10/1/2017
- Ms. Indian Arizona 10/14/2017
- Through the Eyes of a Soldier 11/6/2017
- Chandler Sister Cities Softball

Gilbert:

- Is now referred to as a task force
- They have completed a needs assessment
- United in The Community- January 2018
- Native American Internship

Mesa:

- Booth at Veteran's Benefit Concert
- Booth at MLK Festival
- Attended Mesa's Veteran Court session
- Mesa Morning Live with Marc Community Resources
- Representation at Celebrate Mesa
- Indie Lens Pop-Up Series
- 2nd Annual Youth Peace Building Summit- April 29, 2017
- Hometown Heroes Banner Program
- One Mesa Pledge

Phoenix:

- South Mountain High School Challenge Day
- MLK Living the Dream Award
- Ban the Box- to remove the questions regarding felony records on job applications
- Brown Bag Lunch Series
- Annual Women's Forum

Scottsdale:

- Scottsdale Stories- Social Media
- Islamophobia- October 12, 2017
- Scottsdale Museum of Modern Art- Showcasing the LGBT Community
- MLK Dinner Celebration- Keynote Speaker Robert Enderle

- Oldtown Mo Town Community Concert- During Black History Month
- Also shared that they already have a Diversity Calendar that they can share with other cities

Tempe:

- Have developed a Faith-based activity calendar for the department heads
- Diversity marketing campaign underway: shared print material with the group
- Equal Pay Initiative
- Diversity Dialogues
- Challenge Day- November 2017
- Hispanic Festival
- MLK Festival
- Who's Your Neighbor Brown Bag Lunch
- Ramadan Dinner

(5b) Discuss plans for 2018 Regional Unity Walk.

Ginny Belousek of the Tempe HRC updated the group on the Regional Unity Walk that is scheduled for January 27, 2018 at Tempe Beach Park. It will feature a candlelight walk and a festival to take place before the walk.

(5c) Planning for next HRC meeting.

The next HRC meeting will be hosted by Scottsdale in December 2017.

6. Adjournment.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40pm.

***Members of the audience may address the Board on any item. The Arizona Open Meeting Law (ARS § 38-431 et seq.) limits the Human Relations Advisory Board to discussing only those matters listed on the agenda and other matters related thereto.**

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Si necesita asistencia o traducción en español, favor de llamar al menos 48 horas antes de la reunión al 480-644-2767.