

Meeting Minutes

Human Relations Commission

Regular Meeting

August 16, 2023 | 6:00 p.m.
Chandler City Council Chambers
88 E. Chicago St., Chandler, AZ



Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Maxwell at 6:03 p.m.

Roll Call

Commission Attendance

Chair Erica Maxwell
Vice Chair Kriti Argwal
Commissioner Betty Ramirez
Commissioner Tyler Conaway
Commissioner Joseph Curbelo
Commissioner Jacob Bello
Commissioner Shannon Begay

Staff Attendance

Niki Tapia, DEI Officer
Adrianna Erickson, DEI Coordinator

Commissioners Absent

Commissioner Pamela Morris
Commissioner Garry Ong
Commissioner John Anguiano

Scheduled and Unscheduled Public Appearances

None

Consent Agenda Motion and Vote

Commissioner Conaway moved to approve the June 14, 2023, Human Relations Commission meeting minutes; Seconded by Commissioner Curbello.

Motion carried unanimously (7-0).

Commissioner Ramirez moved to approve the July 18, External Strategic Planning Subcommittee minutes; Seconded by Vice Chair Argwal.

Motion carried unanimously (7-0)

Discussion

HRC Member Survey

Chair Maxwell shared that we are coming out with a short online five question survey of events HRC members attend. This information will help with the year-end review meetings HRC will now hold as it is an action item in the recently approved DEI Strategic Plan. The survey link will be shared in the description field of all calendar notices for upcoming events, so it is always easy to find. If you have any specific questions let us know.

Police Update

Ms. Erickson shared that Commander Sieczkowski could not be here today, but he looks forward to attending next meeting. She also shared the recent article regarding Chandler having the lowest crime rate ever.

Chair Maxwell shared that she read about the Police Chief retiring.

DEI Division Update

Ms. Erickson shared that our Chandler-Gilbert Community College Intern, Jhordan Jussila begins her work with the DEI Division team on September 5. We are looking forward to her working with us on projects including: glossary of DEI terms, outreach to minority and small businesses and helping with community events.

Ms. Tapia updated on the Instant Language Translation Device assessment currently underway in the city. Nine city departments are testing four devices from September 2023 - February 2024. The goal of using this device is to assess if they can help employees communicate more effectively with residents and therefore serve our residents more effectively.

Fall Programs and Events

Ms. Erickson shared about the upcoming Chandler Contigo activities and events. She shared posters with HRC and explained the events (free and paid) for community. Ms. Erickson also commented on two private events: Somos Chandler Collective, to encourage Latino representation in government and Latino Leaders Week, to showcase Latino professionals to junior high students in Chandler.

Ms. Erickson also shared about the Diwali Festival of Lights event taking place on Saturday, November 4 at the Downtown Chandler stage. We still need food and info/merchandise vendors. Ms. Erickson finally shared a request of HRC to like our Facebook page and share the events to help us with promotion.

Chair Maxwell mentioned HRC attendance at events to increase visibility. She asked if members could attend an event for September and one for October. This is an effort to hope to increase during her term.

Ms. Erickson mentioned that our internal city staff team submits post event support after each event we attend. It can be any community event, school event or any public event, not just one of our city events. This helps us capture new partners and ideas for our programming.

The HRC members agreed that DEI staff will send calendar notices for all upcoming events to help capture everything going on in Chandler. HRC members should only click “attend” on events they plan on attending so everyone can see if there is coverage at all events.

Briefing

Chair Maxwell took this time to acknowledge past Chair Tyler Conaway and past Vice Chair Jacob Bello. She thanked both members for their time, commitment, and leadership. Chair Maxwell shared that in two years, under their leadership, the HRC has accomplished so much and has progressed so much and she looks forward to continuing that forward progress during her term as Chair.

All the commissioners also took some time to express their appreciation.

Member Comments/Announcements

Commissioner Curbello announced he and his wife were celebrating 32nd anniversary. He shared that his entire family celebrates this accomplishment together and the most important thing in marriage is respect for each other.

Commissioner Begay shared she was in Window Rock, AZ recently honoring Navajo Code Talker's Day with her grandfathers' who were both Navajo Code Talkers -- Thomas Begay (97 yrs old) and John Kinsel Sr. (107 yrs old). Commissioner Begay delivered the opening prayer for the celebration in Phoenix. These events pay tribute to the heroes and warriors in our communities.

She also thanked the City of Chandler for promoting Navajo Code Talker's day on social media by sharing images from her grandfather's Speaker Series presentation to City employees.

Commissioner Begay concluded that in November, her grandfather Thomas Begay, will be part of the Phoenix Veterans Parade.

Calendar

The next regular meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 18, 2023, at 6 p.m., in the Chandler City Council Chambers, 88 E. Chicago St., Chandler, AZ

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

Niki Tapia, Secretary

Erica Maxwell, Chair