

# COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMISSION

## MINUTES

April 5, 2010

6:30 PM

Members Present: David John, Chairman; Karen Bayless, Chairman Pro-Tem; Art Allison, Eugene Baker, Randy Joslin, Catalina Liles, Kristin Joe

Members Absent: Francis Mitchell, Emet Rudolfo

Ex-Officio Members Present: Marlene Sandoval

Ex-Officio Members Absent: Melissa Charlie, Joyce Donald, Dorothy Nobis

City Representatives Present: Tommy Roberts, Mayor; Rob Mayes, City Manager; Lisa Hutchens, Administrative Assistant

Guests Present: None

### CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chairman David John at approximately at 6:28 pm and there being a quorum of members present, the following proceedings were duly had and taken.

The Commission had a moment of silence in honor of Marshall Plummer who recently passed away. Mr. Plummer was instrumental in the formation of the Community Relations Commission.

### INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Mayor Tommy Roberts introduced himself. Chairman David John and other Commissioners offered their congratulations on being elected as Mayor.

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Karen Bayless moved to approve the minutes of the March 1, 2010 meeting as presented. Randy Joslin seconded. Motion carried.

### ORIENTATION, MAYOR TOMMY ROBERTS

Each Commissioner introduced themselves and gave the Mayor a brief overview of their involvement and history in Farmington.

Mayor Roberts thanked each Commissioner and explained why he asked to be on the agenda. The Mayor noted there are many responsibilities in the ordinance. Mayor Roberts acknowledged it is a tough job but one that makes a difference in the community. Mayor Roberts asked the Commissioners for input on what resources they feel may be lacking. Discussion took place. The general consensus of the Commission is that while a full-time employee isn't necessary, possibly a part-time employee who could speak Navajo or Spanish in addition to English and have mediation skills would be appropriate. This person could keep minimal office hours and assist complainants as needed. Randy Joslin stated that it has been a year of learning and some missteps have been made but that is to be expected. Catalina Liles stated she would like the Mayor to make the re-appointments for the Commission so that their calendar may be set for the year. Mayor Roberts explained he does not have the authority to hire a part-time person but he can advocate for

it if the Commission feels it is needed. It does become a budgetary issue. The Commission reiterated that they would like to focus on education rather than complaints.

#### **PRESENTATIONS TO LOCAL CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS**

Art Allison stated he wants to speak at the Thursday Rotary meeting. Lisa will try to set that up. Eugene explained he will be passing out brochures at the Spring Art Walk downtown.

#### **HISPANIC FAIR, MAY 7<sup>TH</sup>**

The Commission agreed to discuss this at the May meeting.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

David John stated the Legal Departments of the City and Navajo Nation have been discussion a possible Memorandum of Understanding between the Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission and the City's Community Relations Commission. This item will be on a future agenda for discussion.

#### **COMMISSION BUSINESS**

Kristin Joe said she will be moving to Albuquerque in two months and will no longer be able to serve on the Commission. Karen Bayless asked her if she could give the Mayor names of other students who may be interested in serving.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Eugene Baker moved to adjourn the meeting. Karen Bayless seconded. Motion carried.

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David John, Chairman

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Lisa Hutchens, Secretary