



Public Meeting Notes

Date: April 15, 2025

Time: 11:02 AM - 11:43 AM

Format: In-person and virtual (Zoom)

Attendance

Community Members Present:

- Lora Lyman
- Veronica Ragland
- Dr. Nelly Clotter-Woods
- Jennie Cunico
- Kiara Lyons
- Tracy Lopes
- Dr. Sharon Jaycox
- G Flunoy
- Rananni FurQuan
- RD Cruz
- Kim Dartez
- Natasha Townsend

Commissioners Present:

- Commissioner Anderson (Chair)
- Commissioner Post
- Commissioner Strozier
- Commissioner Hodge
- Commissioner Johnson
- Commissioner House
- Commissioner Hart

Ex Officio Members Present:

- Senator Landrum Taylor
- Jenny Cannico
- Ann Carver (proxy for Tanya Hamilton)
- Sophia Branham (proxy for AG Kris Mays)

Staff Present:

- Director Jerry McPherson
- Brandy Ervin (Executive Assistant)

Meeting Notes

Call to Order & Roll Call

- Meeting called to order at 11:02 AM by Commissioner Anderson
- Roll call conducted; quorum was initially not present but was achieved later in the meeting

Executive Director's Report (Director McPherson)

1. Recent Events:

- Consumer Protection Town Hall collaboration with Attorney General's Office



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- 90 pre-registered attendees
 - Six exhibitors
 - AARP sponsored breakfast and lunch
 - Focus on financial scams, identity theft, and predatory practices affecting communities of color
 - Arizona Registrar Contractors Apprenticeship Fair and VIP Summit
 - Nearly 2,000 attendees and 40 exhibitors
 - Career opportunities showcased for students, veterans, and job seekers
 - Discussion about building a stronger, more inclusive workforce pipeline
- 2. Community Engagement:**
- Spoke at AKA (Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc) Arizona Legislative Day at the Capitol
 - Participated in National Association of Real Estate Brokers' Building Black Wealth Tour
 - Delivered remarks highlighting the role of real estate professionals in advancing economic justice and home ownership
- 3. Internal Development:**
- Drafted and shared pillar role descriptions document
 - Implementing co-chair approach for pillars (one commissioner partnered with one public member)
 - Developed communications planning outline with timeline for program execution
- 4. Upcoming Events:**
- Economic Development Pillar Round Table (planned for second or third week of May)
 - Will invite community organizations focused on economic development
 - State agencies will participate to provide direct access and information
 - Goal: Foster collaboration between organizations and improve access to resources
 - Health Pillar Round Table in planning stages with Dr. Jay Cox

Approval of Director's Report

- April 15, 2025, Director's report approved
 - Commissioner Anderson moved to approve the April 2025 Director's report. Commissioner Post second. Approved

Approval of Past Meeting Minutes

- February 18, 2025, meeting minutes approved



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- Commissioner Anderson moved to approve the February 2025 meeting minutes. Commissioner Post second. Approved
- March 18, 2025, meeting minutes approved
 - Commissioner Anderson moved to approve the March 2025 meeting minutes. Commissioner House second. Approved.

Pillar Chair Reports

Justice Pillar (Commissioner Post)

- Tiffany (co-chair) unable to attend due to family emergency
- Justice Pillar and Commissioner Sherwood involved in recent town hall
- Upcoming Pillar Talk on April 17 at 6:30 PM (virtual)
 - Speaker: Honorable Tamika Wooten (former public defender, prosecutor, and current judge)
 - Topic: "How to Survive a Police Stop"
- Follow-up meeting held April 2 regarding disproportionate number of children taken from Black families
 - 13 attendees participated in two-hour discussion
 - Additional community meeting scheduled for April 19, 12:00-3:00 PM at Pilgrims Baptist Church
- National expert (Wexler) interested in working with Commission after publishing op-ed in Arizona Capital Times
- Commissioner Post tracking and working on:
 - Five anti-DEI bills
 - Three bills regarding children's issues

Health Pillar

- No updates provided

Sustainability Pillar

- No updates provided
- Director McPherson noted no commissioner currently assigned to this pillar

Economic Development Pillar

- No commissioner updates

Youth and Education Pillar

- No updates provided

Old Business

Bylaws Approval

- Motion to approve bylaws made by Commissioner Post and seconded by Ex-Officio Landrum-Taylor.
- No discussion
- Bylaws approved and adopted on April 15, 2025



- Senator Landrum Taylor thanked Chair Anderson and Director McPherson for their work on revising the bylaws

Strategic Plan

- Director McPherson reviewed updated Strategic Plan
- Revisions made to stakeholder engagement plan and communications plan
- Budget figures maintained at current levels
- Plan to be published on website by end of week

New Business

- Chair Anderson will contact commissioners to schedule individual meetings
- Director McPherson seeking topic recommendations for next town hall in Tucson
 - Commissioner Post mentioned Tucson NAACP interest in hosting a bail reform discussion

Call to the Public

Announcements

Kim Dartez (Community Member):

- Identified grant opportunities for the Commission:
 - Appropriations Bill Line Item Request (open through April 25) with Senators Gallegos and Kelly
 - Robert Woods Foundation grants
 - Innovative Grant through Legal Legacy Foundation
 - Suggested partnerships with nonprofits in Southeast Arizona

Sophia Branham:

- AG's office hosting town halls throughout the state regarding federal lawsuits
 - Flagstaff (tonight)
 - Phoenix (at a local church, date not specified)
 - Yuma (May, date not specified)

Commissioner Strozier:

- Black and Brown Girl Wellness Days in Tucson
 - May 15: Support for refugee girls
 - May 16: Features Justice Maria Elena Cruz and scientist Inyola
 - Event focused on 100 middle school girls with workshops

Commissioner Johnson:

- East Valley 8th Annual Soul Stroll for Healthy Living
 - Saturday, April 19, 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM at Kiwanis Park
 - Features health vendors, mobile mammography, kickball tournament, mix fit yoga

The logo features a stylized 'AZ' in teal, with a brown mountain range silhouette at the base of the 'Z'.

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- Hosted by Tempe Alumni Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority
 - Includes 1K and 5K walk and children's area
- Delta Authors on Tour
 - May 3 at Omni Tempe Hotel at ASU
 - 10th anniversary event and 100th anniversary of Delta in the Far West region
 - Mayor Woods and national representatives attending
 - Features authors, book signings, spoken word by Dr. Raquel Armstrong
 - International saxophonist IO Brain (teenager) performing

Ann Carver (Tanya Hamilton's Proxy):

- Governor's Youth Council Commission application process open
 - For 9th-12th grade students
 - Particularly seeking applicants from outside Maricopa County
 - Application deadline: May 26

Director McPherson:

- Arizona Black Bar hosting Arizona Professional Summit
 - Friday, April 18, 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM
 - Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law (111 E. Taylor Street, Phoenix)
 - Two tracks: one for men, one for women
 - Open bar reception following the summit

Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned at 11:43 AM