

CITY OF MESA
HUMAN RELATIONS ADVISORY BOARD (HRAB)
VETERANS TASK FORCE (VTF)
March 20th, 2014 Minutes

The Veterans Task Force Team of the City of Mesa met on March 20th, 2014, at 11:00 am
in the Community Room of the Mesa Fire Department – Station 201, 360 E. 1st St.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Denise Heap, Co-chair
David Lucier, Co-chair
Barbara Allison
Cheryl Anderson
Gene Barnes
Bob Burns
Darcy Breault
Billy Contreras
Gene Grego
Doug Dau
Corey Harris
Shirley Kosisky
Bob Schmidt
Mark Tompert

STAFF PRESENT

Ruth Giese
Justin Smothers

1. Call to order.

Mr. Lucier called meeting to order at 11:05 am.

2. Approval of minutes from the February 20th, 2014 VTF meeting.

This item was not discussed.

3. Hear any updates and discuss outlined goals:

- a. Preferential hiring for veterans
- b. Mesa Public Schools connection
- c. Central Campus/Center
- d. Matrix of resources and contacts

Final goals and recommendations were compiled and forwarded to HRAB for consideration. Please see item 7 of this agenda.

4. Discuss and develop a working definition of a “Veteran-friendly” city and community.

VTF members discussed the qualifications for a “Veteran-friendly” city. Several suggestions include a veterans memorial or park, increasing visible recognition and verbal statements of recognition from leadership.

5. Discuss the role and responsibility of local government to their Veterans, Military Personnel, and Military Family Member community.

*Supporting data is available for public review in the Diversity & Neighborhood Outreach Office,
20 E. Main St., Suite 250, Mesa, Arizona 85201 (480) 644-5034*

Ms. Anderson commented on Mr. Smother's ability to bridge the communication gaps among organizations with the City. Ms. Anderson stated that there are a lot of organizations within in Mesa for veterans, but they did not appear to be connecting as well prior to the collaboration. VTF members discussed more ways to continue the communication and collaboration.

6. Discuss and identify the critical needs of Mesa's Veterans, Military Personnel, and Military Family Member community.

Mr. Smothers is currently drafting a report to identify such findings. Mr. Smothers advised that the progress of his report is positively moving forward and he will share at a later time.

7. Discuss items to be forwarded for consideration by HRAB.

The following recommendations were provided to HRAB for consideration:

1. Veteran Expo or Hiring Event
 2. Establish and increase number Veteran-supportive organizations (Business, Non-profits, etc.)
 3. Homeless Veteran Facility (Permanent Veteran-supportive Housing)
 4. Training to educate organizations on how to become more Veteran-supportive
 5. Permanent City of Mesa staff member to handle Veteran and Military Family issues
 6. Veteran town hall meeting/forum
8. Announcements and upcoming events.

VTF members discussed several upcoming events and trainings for veteran concerns.

9. Next meeting: (Date/Time/Location TBD)

The group has agreed to continue meeting outside of HRAB as a veteran's advocacy group which is a benefit to the community. Meeting details have yet to be determined.

10. Adjournment.

Meeting adjourned at 12:50 pm.

Submitted By:



Ruth Giese,
Diversity Program Administrator