



**CITY OF MESA  
HUMAN RELATIONS ADVISORY BOARD (HRAB)  
VETERANS TASK FORCE TEAM (VTF)**

May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2013 Minutes

640 N. Mesa Dr. Mesa  
9am-11am

In attendance: Denise Heap, Vice Chair of the Human Relations Advisory Board  
Barbara Allison  
Darcy Breault  
Doug Dau  
Troy Friedman  
Tom Gussie  
Corey Harris  
Shirley Kosisky  
David Lucier  
Heather McAlister  
Thomas Winkle, Guest Speaker  
Ruth Giese, Mesa City Staff

1. Call to order.

Ms. Heap welcomed those present and called the meeting to order.

2. Approval of minutes from the April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2013 VTF meeting.

A motion was made by Mr. Lucier to approve the April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2013 minutes, Mr. Dau seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Discuss the ongoing structure of VTF.

Ms. Giese advised that the Diversity Office will be applying for a full-time Vista member in the upcoming fiscal year to assist the office with Veterans issues and other work as assigned by the office. The preferable candidate is a veteran, so the job posting will be forwarded to VTF for distribution. Ms. Giese explained that the position is paid with benefits, and that the candidate will be responsible for maintaining contact with the VTF.

The task force agreed to meet on a quarterly basis, and that the next meeting would be held in the Fall once the Vista member begins working for the Diversity Office.

Ms. Heap recommended again a co-chair model for the continuation of the task force for facilitation and outreach efforts moving forward. Mr. Dau made a motion for a co-chair model with one member from HRAB and a member from a military organization. The task force nominated Heather McAlister and David Lucier. The motion moved unanimously.

4. Hear update and discuss:

- Preferential hiring for veterans

Ms. Heap announced that the City of Mesa already has preferential hiring for veterans; however HRAB made the recommendation to the City Council to direct City staff to develop a guideline to give veterans who meet minimum qualifications some preference in being selected for interviews.

- Mesa Public Schools connection

Ms. Allison advised that she spoke with Rocky Macy, with Luke Air Force Base, who advised that if school children are having difficulty with a parent's deployment, etc. they are referred to family advocacy programs on base. Ms. McAlister stated that she has attempted to contact David Shuff, the head counselor with Mesa Public Schools, but has been unsuccessful. She will continue efforts for contact.

Mr. Winkle, representative with Arizona Coalition of Military Families (ACMF), provided an overview of the services his agency can provide in keeping with VTF's goals. Mr. Dau made a motion for Mesa Public School counselors to receive specialty training on addressing the needs of children from military families.

- Central Campus/ Center

The task force continued the discussion of the need for a central campus in the East Valley area, preferably in Mesa. Ms. Breault introduced herself and Troy Freidman from the East Valley Veterans Education Center. They explained their resources, facility and hopes of becoming the one stop place for veterans' resources in the East Valley. Mr. Freidman stated that they will be moving into a new location on the southwest corner of Southern and Price in Tempe, next to the Mesa border, within six months.

- Matrix of resources and contacts

In continuation from information provided by Mr. Winkle, Mr. Dau made a motion for HRAB to recommend a veteran resources summit to take place in Mesa with assistance from ACMF. Mr. Gussie seconded the motion. Mr. Gussie suggested that the recommendation also include inviting representatives from Gilbert, Chandler, Tempe and other East Valley cities. The motion moved unanimously.

Ms. Heap questioned the status of resources to be linked on the City of Mesa webpage. Ms. Giese stated that the best option is to reference the Mesa or East Valley link from resources that already exist such as the ACMF website. Mr. Lucier agreed that the matrix he compiled includes resource links from the local level.

5. Discuss 9/11 Day of Service - volunteer opportunity

Ms. Giese summarized that the City of Mesa participates every year in the 9/11 Day of Service, in which a veteran in need is selected for a service project. The City's Volunteer Manager is requesting recommendations of a local veteran who may need assistance with a house painting, yard clean-up, etc. Also, VTF members or affiliates are requested to participate or contribute in kind for the actual service project. Ms. Kosisky stated that the Disabled American Veterans has a list of candidates for recommendation. Ms. Breault offered volunteer services on behalf of her organization. Ms. Breault was selected as the event coordinator to work with in collaboration with city staff.

6. Closing remarks.

With assistance from city staff, a future meeting date will be determined for the Fall and task force members will be notified.

Submitted By:



Ruth Giese,  
Diversity Program Administrator