

CITY OF MESA
HUMAN RELATIONS ADVISORY BOARD (HRAB)
September 25, 2013 MINUTES

The Human Relations Advisory Board (HRAB) of the City of Mesa met on September 25th, 2013, at 6:00pm in the Lower Level, City Council Chambers, 57 E. First Street.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Denise Heap, Chair
Susan Lotz, Vice Chair
Frank Johnson
Cliff Moon
Talmage Pearce
LuAnn Schmidt
Mark Tompert

MEMBERS ABSENT

Hong Chartrand

STAFF PRESENT

Andrea Arenas
Ruth Giese
Debbie Spinner
Ray Villa

GUESTS

1. Chair's Call to Order.

Ms. Heap called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

2. Items from Citizens Present.*

There were no citizens that requested to speak.

3. Approval of minutes from the August 24th, 2013 Strategic Planning meeting.

A motion was made by Mr. Tompert to approve the August 24th, 2013 minutes and Ms. Schmidt seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

4. Discuss, revise and approve of the 2013-2014 Strategic Plan.

A motion was made by Mr. Pearce to approve the 2013-2014 Strategic Plan and Ms. Schmidt seconded. Ms. Heap suggested a word change and additional item on page 6. The motion carried unanimously with the corrections.

5. Hear a presentation from the City Attorney regarding the Open Meeting Law and Conflicts of Interest Law.

Ms. Spinner, Mesa's City Attorney, gave a presentation on the Open Meeting Law and Conflicts of Interest Law. The Open Meeting Law (A.R.S. 38-431) ensures that the public has an opportunity to observe what the governing body, including HRAB, is doing and how it is being done. This means that all meeting notices and agendas must be posted in advanced and held in a public place. Ms. Spinner reviewed that quorum must be met to conduct meetings. These regulations also pertain to means of communication such as emails, phone calls, letters, etc.

Ms. Spinner also explained the Conflict of Interest Law (A.R.S. 38-503). This law states that any public officer, who has, or whose relative have, a financial or ownership interest in an issue before the board shall declare conflict and refrain from participating in any manner in the decision (detailed exceptions do apply). If an HRAB member feels they may have a conflict of interest, they must state so on record and refrain from participation on the topic before, during or after any discussion. Gifts exceeding \$50 must also be declared by filing a statement with the City's Clerks Office.

6. Discuss and take action on Mesa Police Department Report.

- Report on police related incidents and activities.

Mr. Villa advised that there were no hate crimes reported for the past quarter, however an incident did occur on July, 27th 2013 in the Barrington Estates neighborhood where several vehicles and a house were vandalized with racially motivated messages. These incidents are not categorized as hate crimes because

they occurred in the same night and victims appeared to be random since they were of multiple ethnicities. Mr. Villa announced that starting next month Commanders from each of the substations will attend one of the upcoming HRAB meetings to discuss issues and areas of concern in their district. Mr. Villa also shared that eight members of the police force and one employee from another department attended the Gay Straight Alliance meeting in Tempe. Members from the City of Tempe and Town of Gilbert were also in attendance in which they discussed partnering for future events.

- Updates and scheduling of upcoming Police Advisory Board meetings.

The Senior Advisory Board will be meeting on September 30th, 2013 at 9:30am at the Red Mountain Multigenerational Center, the Human Rights Board will be meeting on October 1st, 2013 at 6pm at the Central Substation Community Room, and the Asian Community Advisory Board will be meeting on October 22nd, 2013 at 6pm at Kino Jr. High. The Clergy Advisory Board plans to meet but a date has not been set.

Mr. Villa advised that the Asian Community Advisory Board will be meeting at Kino Jr. High to learn more about the Making Every Student Accountable (MESA) Program which he oversees. The MESA Program has been occurring since 2008 where they target at-risk students aged 12-15, from the specific school, who may have behavioral issues to participate in a nine week long course. The students meet regularly for two hours, one hour spent on physical fitness and the other spent on life training. Every Tuesday staff meets with the parents and students together to discuss their progress and offer counseling. The students have a graduation ceremony and etiquette dinner to celebrate the completion on the program. The MESA Program occurs twice a year, in fall and spring, and they currently have 40 students enrolled for the upcoming session. Typically there are equal amounts of males and females in each class, but they predominantly Hispanic with few Native Americans, African Americans and Caucasians. The program is operated by one full time officer, one part time officer, a youth prevention counselor and administrative staff.

7. Hear, discuss and take action on scheduling of future meetings, agendas and team chairs by the Ad Hoc committees:

- Issues Research and Action Team

Team members include Mr. Moon, Ms. Heap and Mr. Johnson. Regular meetings will occur on the third Thursday of each month at 5:30pm. Mr. Moon was selected as Chair.

- Disabilities Task Force

Team members include Mr. Tompert, Ms. Heap and Ms. Schmidt. Regular meetings will occur on the second Tuesday of each month at 6:00pm. Mr. Tompert was selected as Chair.

- Youth Diversity Education Team

Team members include Ms. Lotz, Ms. Heap and Mr. Pearce. Regular meetings will occur on the second Wednesday of each month at 5:00pm. Ms. Lotz was selected as Chair.

- Veterans Task Force

Team members include Mr. Tompert and Ms. Heap. The next meeting date has yet to be determined. Ms. Arenas advised that a date will be selected and information will be distributed once the new VISTA intern arrives mid-November to begin coordinating efforts defined by the task force.

8. Hear, discuss, and take action on items presented by the Ad Hoc Issues Research and Action Team:

- Report on the community survey.

Ms. Lotz updated the board that they met with representatives from Arizona State University's Morrison Institute to assist with the community survey in order to insure accuracy and validity of the results. They will administer a randomized phone survey to 400 Mesa residents based on the demographics of the city. An additional 100 surveys each will be completed for the Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender community and disabled community for a total of 600 completed phone surveys. Morrison Institute will compile the data and

produce an analytical report for the board's review. Mr. Moon inquired why a phone survey was preferred over a written or online survey. In response, Ms. Giese advised that this was the professional opinion of Morrison Institute staff. Per their recommendation, a phone survey is most reliable means for collecting impartial data. Ms. Heap stated that organizational contacts will be needed to provide contacts for the subgroups. Mr. Tompert provided a list of organizations for the disabled community. Ms. Lotz made a motion for staff to arrange a contract with the Morrison Institute and continue plans for the phone survey, Mr. Tompert seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

9. Hear, discuss, and take action on inviting Senator Jeff Flake to march in the Martin Luther King Jr. Parade with HRAB in January 2014.

Ms. Lotz stated that she was in contact with a representative from the Mesa MLK Committee who would like to partner on the invitation being sent to Senator Flake. Mr. Johnson made a motion for a letter to be drafted and sent to Senator Flake inviting him to participate in the Martin Luther King Jr. Parade. Mr. Moon seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously. Ms. Heap suggested that plans should be made, in the event that Senator Flake accepts, to make it a positive experience for him.

10. Discuss and take action on the cancellation or rescheduling of the following board meetings:

- Rescheduling the November 27th, 2013 meeting to December 4th, 2013 at 6pm.

Ms. Schmidt made a motion to reschedule the November 27th meeting to December 4th and Mr. Pearce seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

- Cancellation of December 25th, 2013 meeting.

Ms. Schmidt made a motion to cancel the December 25th meeting and Mr. Pearce seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

- Rescheduling the May 28th, 2013 meeting to May 21st, 2013 at 6pm.

Ms. Schmidt made a motion to reschedule the May 28th meeting to May 21st and Mr. Moon seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

11. Hear and discuss conferences and/or meetings.

- Community Cinema Series- The Graduates/ Los Graduados, October 17th, 6pm, Mesa Arts Center.
- Celebrate Mesa- October 19th, from 5pm-9pm at the Red Mountain Soccer Complex.
- Diversity Leadership Alliance Conference on November 1st, 2013 from 8am-3pm at Sheraton in Downtown Phoenix.

Ms. Giese advised the board members of the upcoming events and encouraged them to attend.

12. Scheduling of meetings, future agenda items, and general information.

- Next meeting will be held on October 23rd, 2013 at 6pm.

13. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 7:19pm.

Submitted By:



Ruth Giese,
Diversity Program Administrator