

JUDICIAL ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

December 5, 2001

The Judicial Advisory Board of the City of Mesa met in the lower level meeting room of the Council Chambers, 57 East 1st Street, on December 5, 2001 at 8:00 a.m.

COMMITTEE PRESENT

Chairman Joe Shipley
John Kerr
Judith O'Neill
Cecil Patterson
Joan Ruffennach
Marilyn Wilson

COMMITTEE ABSENT

James Keppel

STAFF PRESENT

Denise Bleyle
Kathleen Broman
Pat Granillo
Walter Switzer

Chairman Shipley excused Boardmember Patterson from the beginning of the meeting and Boardmember Keppel from the entire meeting. Boardmember Patterson joined the meeting at 8:10 a.m.

1. Approve minutes of the October 3, 2001 meeting.

It was moved by Vice Chairman O'Neill, seconded by Boardmember Kerr, that the minutes of the October 3, 2001 meeting be approved.

Chairman Shipley declared the motion carried unanimously by those present.

2. Review and consider items related to the reappointment of Magistrate Michelle Lue Sang, whose term expires June 30, 2002.

a. Application for reappointment

In response to a question from Chairman Shipley, Management Assistant Denise Bleyle stated that the Board was provided copies of both the Application for Appointment and the Application for Reappointment to the Mesa Municipal Court for its review prior to today's meeting. She explained that revisions were made to the current reappointment application within the last two years to make it less cumbersome and repetitive.

Chairman Shipley questioned the necessity of the applicant resubmitting information on the Application for Reappointment which was previously included on the original Application for Appointment to the Mesa Municipal Court.

Boardmember Wilson expressed her preference that the information on the Application for Reappointment be as complete as possible to assist the Board during its review process.

Boardmember Ruffennach inquired with regard to the Application for Appointment whether it would be appropriate to permit an applicant to limit the listing of his/her professional and business employment to the past 10 to 15 years as opposed to since the completion of the applicant's formal education.

In response to a question from Chairman Shipley, Presiding City Magistrate Walter Switzer clarified that in his opinion, he would prefer that the application include all of the applicant's work experience to aid the Boardmembers during their review process.

Further discussion ensued regarding this matter, and it was the consensus of the Board not to revise the Application for Reappointment.

(Boardmember Patterson arrived at the meeting at 8:10 a.m.)

b. Schedule for meetings and interview

Ms. Bleyle stated that she provided the Board with a revised Work Plan and an updated roster of the Judicial Advisory Board Members.

Chairman Shipley informed the Boardmembers that the next meeting will be on January 2, 2002, at 8:00 a.m.

Ms. Bleyle advised the Board that the purpose of the January 2, 2002 meeting will be to finalize the interview format, review interview questions and discuss the surveys.

c. Review questions

It was moved by Vice Chairman O'Neill, seconded by Boardmember Ruffennach, that an Executive Session be convened at 8:13 a.m. for the purpose of reviewing the interview questions.

Chairman Shipley declared the motion carried unanimously by those present.

(At 8:16 a.m., the Board reconvened their regular meeting and the Executive Session adjourned.)

3. Scheduling of meetings and general information.

The scheduling of meetings was discussed under agenda item 2b.

Chairman Shipley introduced Boardmember Ruffennach to Presiding City Magistrate Walter Switzer.

Ms. Bleyle responded to a request from Boardmember Wilson and said that she will extend an invitation to the newly appointed City Attorney Deborah Spinner to attend the January or February Judicial Advisory Board meeting to meet the Boardmembers.

In response to a request by Chairman Shipley at the October 3, 2001 meeting regarding providing the Boardmembers with a copy of Judge Michelle Lue Sang's mid-point report, Ms. Bleyle clarified that due to the fact that Judge Lue Sang has not yet officially submitted an Application for Reappointment, it would not be appropriate for the Boardmembers to review the report at this time.

Magistrate Switzer provided the Boardmembers with a brief status report on the City Court including the fact that the Court's caseload has not dramatically increased this year; the fact that there has been a substantial decrease in the amount of photo radar tickets; the fact that City Magistrates Michelle Lue Sang and Karl Eppich are both performing an exemplary job; the fact that no additional City Magistrates are necessary at the present time, and the fact that a larger facility is needed to house City Court personnel. Magistrate Switzer also thanked the Judicial Advisory Board for its efforts and hard work.

In response to a request from Boardmember Wilson, Ms. Bleyle stated that she will provide the Boardmembers with a listing of the scheduled courtroom appearances for Magistrate Lue Sang at the January 2, 2002 meeting.

In response to a question from Boardmember Kerr, Ms. Bleyle clarified that Boardmembers Kerr and Patterson's terms will expire on June 30, 2002.

Ms. Bleyle thanked the Boardmembers for their attendance.

4. Adjournment.

Without objection, the meeting of the Judicial Advisory Board adjourned at 8:22 a.m.

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Judicial Advisory Board meeting of the City of Mesa, Arizona, held on the 5th day of December 2001. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

BARBARA JONES, CITY CLERK