

HUMAN RELATIONS ADVISORY BOARD
January 25, 2012 MINUTES

The Human Relations Advisory Board of the City of Mesa met in a regular Human Relations Advisory Board Meeting January 25, 2012, 6:00 p.m. at the Lower Level, City Council Chambers, 57 E. First Street.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Rory Gilbert, Chair
Denise Heap, Vice Chair
Terry Benelli
Hong Chartrand
Lela Hinds-Peterson
Frank Johnson
Wayne Manske
James May
Orchidia Peterson
Dean Tun Lin Moe

MEMBERS ABSENT

Ana Cadillo

STAFF PRESENT

Ruth Giese

GUESTS

Ray Villa
Marta Urbina

1. Welcome and Introductions.

Ms. Gilbert welcomed the board and guests. Ms. Gilbert asked the board members to introduce themselves to Mr. Tun Lin Moe, who recently joined the board. Mr. Tun Lin Moe also introduced himself.

2. Items from citizens present.

There were no citizens who requested to speak to the board.

3. Approval of minutes from the October 26, 2011 board meeting.

A motion was made by Ms. Benelli to approve the October 26, 2011 the Human Relations Advisory Board (HRAB) minutes. Mr. May seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

4. Approval of minutes from the November 30, 2011 board meeting.

A motion was made by Mr. May to approve the November 30, 2011, with a correction made to item number fourteen. Ms. Heap seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

5. Hear a presentation and discuss on Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Amendments Act of 2008 from Marta Urbina, Director of Office for Children with Special Health Care Needs, Arizona Department of Health Services.

Marta Urbina provided a summary of the ADA Amendments Act of 2008. The ADAA expands and clarifies several parts of the ADA, and seeks to clarify language in the original ADA with respect to employment. This Act also has implications for the education system, because if a child has a disability, the ADAA has expanded to how it applies to providing accommodations for children in school.

Ms. Gilbert noted that in 2008, after 18 years of ADA, the same number of persons (7 out of 10) with a disability is still unemployed. The ADAA seeks to clearly identify the original intent of the ADA to ensure that those persons who seek employment have equal access to jobs.

6. Mesa Police Department Report.

Ray Villa announced the schedule of upcoming meetings of the Police Advisory Boards, including the Human Rights Board Clergy Board. The Citizen Police Academy will begin on February 16, 2012. In addition, Save the Family will be presenting a discussion on the culture of poverty for the Clergy Advisory Board on March 5th at 4pm.

7. Hear report on meeting with Mayor Smith from Chair Gilbert and Vice Chair Heap.

Ms. Gilbert summarized the meeting that she and Ms. Heap had with Mayor Smith. They left with the understanding that part of the board's purpose is bringing people together in civil conversation, and that the Mayor still supports this function. Also discussed was that the board should plan topics that apply to a more global conversation rather than a topic that may have a political bent such as the Mesa Compact. The Mayor was not concerned that the ordinance needed any changes to clarify the board's purpose and function.

Ms. Heap stated that the Mayor Smith was in support of all of the Board's actions, with the exception of any additional work on the Mesa Compact.

Ms. Gilbert reported that she informed Mayor Smith that the board will continue to keep him informed about topics that the HRAB may be working on and that they also briefly discussed the possibility of the HRAB meeting with City Council on an annual basis.

8. Discuss, provide direction and approve Mesa City Code Title 2, Chapter 12 which outlines the creation, purpose and functions, and membership of the Human Relations Advisory Board.

The board discussed its functions and whether the ordinance needs clarification. The board discussed its goals, and discussed how the board could meet with City Council annually to present its accomplishments. Mr. May suggested the board invite council members to attend board meetings. Ms. Benelli suggested requesting that HRAB present to one of the council subcommittees. Mr. May read the ordinance and based on his review, the board can hold meetings and receive information in the way the board deems appropriate.

Ms. Gilbert summarized the discussion and reiterated that the board is not looking to make changes at this time and that language will be reviewed at the next strategic planning session. However, the board does seek clarification on its reporting structure; who is it that the board reports to so that is it clear going forward.

9. Hear an update, discuss and provide direction on and approve items presented by the Ad Hoc Community and Education Project Team.

Ms. Heap advised the Ad Hoc Community and Education Project Team elected Mr. Johnson and herself as co-chairs of the team. Ms. Peterson stated that she is working on securing a speaker to educate the board on Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

The team also recommended that a presentation be scheduled from the City's Human Resources Department (HR) on domestic partner benefits based on the request made by a city employee and the Mesa Police Department. There may be information on what the City has considered and what research has been done in considering domestic partner benefits. In the alternative, Ms. Benelli also suggested that if HR has the information, the board would appreciate receiving it and that HR need not necessarily conduct additional research.

Ms. Gilbert reiterated that the board would have two reports in February: one on PTSD and one on what the City offers now in regard to domestic partner benefits.

Ms. Heap also reported what the team will continue to plan a community dialogue project; including considering possible locations for the first neighborhood discussion.

Ms. Heap also updated the board on the regional unity walk. The Mesa Police Association is providing the t-shirts to give out to Mesa participants at the event.

10. Discuss, revise and approve Human Relations Advisory Board brochure.

Ms. Gilbert asked the board for feedback on the draft brochure. Mr. Manske provided editing comments. Mr. May also provided comments on what information would be on the front cover of the brochure and to re-design the information in a more readable format. The board agreed to continue to provide comments to Ms. Giese so that the content could be reviewed in February.

11. Diversity Administrator's Report:

Ms. Giese provided information about the upcoming Community Cinema Series, which will be held each month from February to May at the Mesa Arts Center.

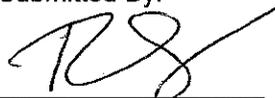
12. Scheduling of meetings, future agenda items, and general information.

Ms. Gilbert provided information of the Desperado Film Festival and a forum featuring Ambassador Shabaaz. Ms. Heap reported a Gay Straight Alliance event for Mesa students in take place in May. Mr. Manske attended the University of Arizona anniversary of the Tucson shooting. Mr. May reported that several board members attended the MLK banquet. Ms. Giese announced that the regional HRC meeting will be held on February 14, 2012 at the City of Tempe.

13. Adjourn.

Ms. Gilbert thanked everyone and adjourned the meeting at approximately 7:45 p.m.

Submitted By:



Ruth Giese,
Diversity Program Administrator