

CITY OF MESA
HUMAN RELATIONS ADVISORY BOARD (HRAB)
Ad Hoc ISSUES RESEARCH AND ACTION TEAM (IRA)
October 24, 2012 Minutes

The Issues Research and Action Team of the City of Mesa met on October 24, 2012, at 5:00 p.m.
in the Lower Level, City Council Chambers, 57 E. First Street.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Denise Heap
Lela Hinds-Peterson
Frank Johnson
Orchidia Peterson

MEMBERS ABSENT

Jaime Aguirre

STAFF PRESENT

Andrea Arenas
Ruth Giese

GUESTS

Darrel Johnson

1. Call to Order.

Ms. Heap called the meeting to order at 5:04pm.

2. Items from citizens present.

There were no citizens who requested to speak to IRA.

3. Review and consider recommendations in response to the pending report on domestic partner benefits for City employees.

Ms. Heap stated that IRA has been requested by the board to wait until November to submit the request for a study to be done related to domestic partner benefits. Ms. Heap and Mr. Johnson will both be leading the report for this topic.

4. Assess and explore the creation of an anti-harassment ordinance for the City of Mesa.

There were no members that requested to take the lead at this time.

5. Assess and explore the creation of a non-discrimination ordinance for the City of Mesa.

Mr. Johnson will take the lead for this topic and Ms. Heap will assist. Ms. Heap advised that for both item four and five in the agenda, research has shown that cities who take a stand on anti-harassment and non-discrimination ordinances have a lessening of such because the city is making a statement.

6. Research and consider recommending City participation in a Cesar Chavez march.

Mr. Aguirre is the lead for item, and was not in attendance. Ms. Heap advised that it seemed unlikely for participation in a 2013 march; however they board can work towards participation in a 2014 march.

7. Research, design, and consider implementing Diversity Champion Awards.

Ms. Heap stated that she researched how other organizations select whom they wish to honor. For example, the members of the Mesa Martin Luther King, Jr. committee submit names of individuals to the board and they vote on it. Equality Arizona asks that names be submitted by the community and the board will vote on it. Echo Magazine has readers submit names for a vote. Ms. Heap commented that more research will need to be done because she believes the board will not be able to do outreach towards the public for this purpose. Mr. Aguirre, who was not present, and Ms. Peterson will be acting as co-leads for this topic.

8. Identify and implement best practices for community response to hate crimes as it relates to a specific neighborhood currently experiencing hate crimes and in creating/adopting a community-wide model such as the Not In Our Town program.

Ms. Heap advised that Northpointe 1 HOA was unable to have their meeting in October as previously discussed and have asked that it be moved to February 2013. Ms. Heap stated that they were previously unable to use the Not In Our Town model given the lack of time, but since the meeting is being pushed back three months this allows the opportunity to reconsider this model as an option. Ms. Hopkins recommended that other models also be considered to determine the best practice. Ms. Hinds-Peterson was nominated and accepted the lead on this topic. Ms. Hinds-Peterson will contact Mr. George Bach, the HOA president, in order convey information.

9. Discuss future agenda items, meeting dates, announcements, other housekeeping.

Ms. Heap requested a standing date and time be selected for future meeting. Ms. Giese explained that by selecting a standing date and time, members will be able to plan their schedules in advanced. The board agreed to hold a standing meeting on the second Thursday of the month between 5pm-6pm, except for the November meeting which will take place on the third Thursday of the month. Ms. Heap requested that all items present on the current agenda be considered standing items.

The committee will meet again November 15, 2012 at 5:00pm. Mr. Johnson made the motion to adjourn the meeting and Ms. Hopkins seconded. Meeting adjourned at 5:25pm.

Submitted By:



Ruth Giese,
Diversity Program Administrator