

**HUMAN RELATIONS ADVISORY BOARD (HRAB)
October 3, 2012 MINUTES**

The Human Relations Advisory Board (HRAB) of the City of Mesa met at a Board October 3, 2012, 6:00 p.m. in the Lower Level, City Council Chambers, 57 E. First Street.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Rory Gilbert, Chair
Denise Heap
Charmain Hopkins
Frank Johnson
Jaime Aguirre
James May
Lela Peterson

MEMBERS ABSENT

Hong Chartrand
Orchidia Peterson
Wayne Manske

STAFF PRESENT

Lyn Buzuleciu
Ruth Giese

GUESTS

Maribel Dillard
Elbert Lint
Ray Villa

1. Chair's Call to Order.

Ms. Gilbert welcomed the board and guests and called the meeting to order.

2. Items from Citizens Present.*

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

3. Approval of minutes from the August 25, 2012 board meeting.

A motion was made by Mr. May to approve the August 25, 2012 minutes. Ms. Heap seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

4. Discuss, revise and approve 2012/2013 Strategic Plan.

The board reviewed its strategic plan. Ms. Gilbert asked that reference to Mr. May be removed given that he was resigning from the board. One such item referenced working on the HRAB website. Ms. Giese informed the board that the Public Information Office manages the City of Mesa websites. Ms. Giese advised that the board could submit proposed changes, and the Public Information Office would need to approve it. Ms. Gilbert asked the board members to please look at the City of Mesa's website and bring back to the next board meeting any recommendations for improvements. Ms. Gilbert suggested that with the revisions of name changes that the strategic plan be approved. A motion was made by Ms. Heap to approve the 2012/13 strategic plan. Ms. Peterson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

5. Hear a presentation, and discuss and take action on board participation in the Arizona Asian American Festival (November 3-4) by Maribel Dillard, President, Arizona Asian American Association.

Ms. Gilbert introduced Maribel Dillard the President of the Arizona Asian American Association. Ms. Dillard extended an invitation to the board for the 18th annual Asian Festival. The Asian American Association was established in 1988. Ms. Dillard introduced the founder and ambassador of the Asian American Association, Elbert Lint. Ms. Dillard informed the board that this year they will have fifteen different cultures joining them at the festival. Ms. Dillard asked the board for a donation for the Student Essay Design and Poster Drawing Contest they will have on March 27, 2012. Mr. May requested the amount needed to fulfill the donation. Ms. Dillard advised that they are seeking a remainder of \$1000.00.

6. Mesa Police Department Report.

Mr. Villa informed the board about the HOA meeting on October 15, 2012 for the Ad Hoc committee on hate crimes. Ms. Heap asked Mr. Villa about his work with local clergy regarding child abuse. Mr. Villa stated they anticipate the meetings will start the end of October or the first part of November. Mr. Villa asked for help getting the word out to the community once they have a date set. Ms. Gilbert asked Mr. Villa to relay information to Ms. Giese pertaining to any events or activities that he would like the board to assist with. Mr. Villa informed the board about a lecture on hate crimes presented by the Anti-Defamation League on October 16th, at the Mesa Public Safety Training Facility. Mr. Villa also reported that there is now a national website to help officers to identify hate crimes and symbols of hate crimes.

7. Discuss and provide direction on Diversity Champion/MLK award.

Mr. May stated that it was time that we honor one or more persons in the community that have significantly contributed within the field of human rights. Mr. May stated that it will help to raise the board awareness and influence. Mr. Aguirre and Ms. Heap will be the lead on the award. This item was identified to be discussed and considered in the Ad Hoc Research & Issues Project Team meetings.

8. Discuss, select and approve Ad Hoc Teams Chair persons.

Ms. Gilbert advised that the goal of the chair and co-chair is to grow the rest of the board. Ms. Heap stated that she would like to be chair of the Ad Hoc because she knows the history and has been at every meeting. Ms. Peterson explained that prior to this year she had other commitments conflicting with her schedule that did not allow her the ability to maintain a leadership role, but now she would like the opportunity to experience such a role. Mr. Johnson informed the board that he will not be able to commit to co-chair at this time. Mr. Aguirre asked if he could make a motion to table the conversation until the next meeting when there are more board members present. Ms. Gilbert selected Ms. Hopkins as the Veterans Task Force Chair.

9. Hear an update, discuss, and provide direction on items presented by the Ad Hoc Veterans Task Force.

Ms. Hopkins provided a summary of VTF meeting held on October 17th. VTF is planning its kickoff meeting to be held in January. Ms. Hopkins read VTF's proposed mission statement to the board: "Demonstrate our commitment to value and support veterans as a city." Mr. Aguirre made a motion to approve the mission statement and Ms. Heap seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Hopkins also informed the board of the upcoming Veterans Day Parade to be held on November 12th. Mr. Johnson and Ms. Heap volunteered to walk in the parade. Mr. Aguirre made a motion that the board participate in the Veterans Day parade. Mr. Johnson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

10. Hear an update, discuss, and provide direction on items presented by the Ad Hoc Issues Research and Project Team.

Ms. Heap informed the board about the Northpoint HOA hate crimes meeting. The meeting will be held at the community park and Mesa Police will be there to help educate the community. Ms. Gilbert asked that an item be included in the next board meeting to allow the board to approve sponsorship of the HOA meeting.

11. Diversity Administrator's Report:

Ms. Giese informed the board about the Cinema Series, which is held the 3rd Thursday of each month, excluding December, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Ms. Gilbert asked if Ms. Giese needed any facilitators from the board for the Cinema Series. Ms. Giese stated that the diversity office intern has been scheduling the speakers.

12. Hear a report, discuss, conferences and/or meetings.

The board discussed the most recent Regional Human Relations Board meeting held September 19, 2012 hosted by Town of Gilbert. The City of Phoenix Phoenix is scheduled to hold the next regional meeting.

13. Recognition of outgoing member James May.

The board members took the opportunity to thank Mr. May for his years of service on the board. Mr. May thanked everyone for their support and looked forward to serving Mesa again upon retirement and moving back to Mesa in the future.

14. Adjournment.

Without objection, the meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Submitted By:

Ruth Giese,
Diversity Program Administrator