

JUDICIAL ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

February 1, 2006

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 February 1, 2006 at 7:50 a.m.

COMMITTEE PRESENT

Chairman Linda Rottman
Marlon E. Branham
Stella Hunsaker
Barbara Jarrett
Joan Ruffennach
Murray G. Snow

COMMITTEE ABSENT

None

STAFF PRESENT

Denise Bleye
Kathleen Broman
Pat Granillo
Matt Tafoya
Paul Thomas

(Items on the agenda were discussed out of order, but for purposes of clarity will remain as listed on the agenda.)

(Boardmember Branham arrived at the meeting at 7:55 a.m.)

1. Approve minutes of the November 16, 2005 and January 4, 2006 meetings.

Boardmember Snow requested that the November 16, 2005 minutes be amended to reflect that he was present during the Board's Executive Session.

It was moved by Boardmember Snow, seconded by Boardmember Ruffennach, that the November 16, 2005 minutes be approved, as amended.

Chairman Rottman declared the motion carried unanimously by those present.

It was moved by Boardmember Snow, seconded by Boardmember Ruffennach, that the January 4, 2006 minutes be approved.

Chairman Rottman declared the motion carried unanimously by those present.

2. Hear an update on the Mesa City Court from Presiding Magistrate Matt Tafoya.

Presiding Magistrate Matt Tafoya addressed the Committee and provided a short synopsis of various programs and services that have been implemented at the Mesa City Court in the last two years. He reported that the in-custody court has recently been remodeled and now offers a clean and safe environment for court personnel, attorneys and defendants to conduct business. Magistrate Tafoya explained that staff has also been working on a process whereby all court forms will be computer generated, thereby eliminating the "paper flow" throughout the system. He commented that additionally, the Court will soon be fully automated relative to the issuance of warrants and said that the timeframe within which such documents are issued would decrease.

Discussion ensued relative to various City Court-related committees addressing issues such as the caseload for the court system, and the manner in which in-custody defendants are processed; the fact that defendants who are indigent are receiving assistance through the Public Defender's Office; and that the City Court is establishing performance standards called "court tools" that will provide the public with an opportunity to view, via the Court's web site, a statistical analysis of various Court functions in an effort to improve its accountability to the community.

Court Administrator Paul Thomas offered a brief overview of the current status of the new Mesa Court Building. He explained that the project, which is currently in the design phase, is envisioned to be a "cutting edge" facility that would integrate business function, automation, and building design to support the manner in which the Court intends to conduct business in the future. Mr. Thomas advised that in addition to the City seeking input from consultants relative to the effective placement of systems throughout the building, Court personnel have also offered feedback with regard to the physical layout of their work areas and what factors, if any, inhibit them from working efficiently.

Mr. Thomas further commented that the design of the new Court Building would create a dignified and respectful atmosphere and also efficiently route customers to the appropriate locations within the facility. He added that in an effort to improve customer service, customers are now able to access the City Court's web site to pay fines, post bond, and cancel warrants on some lesser offenses.

Further discussion ensued relative to the location of the new Court Building; the fact that the design of the facility would accommodate additional courtrooms when Mesa reaches build-out; that bonding for the building has been approved by Mesa voters; and potential parking options for the building.

Chairman Rottman expressed appreciation to Presiding Magistrate Tafoya and Mr. Thomas for their informative presentations.

3. Review and consider items related to the reappointment of Presiding Magistrate Matt Tafoya and Magistrate Michelle Lue Sang, whose terms expire June 30, 2006:

- a. Review Application for Reappointment and assign reference checks.

Management Assistant II Denise Bleyle reported that the Board has been provided copies of the completed applications for Presiding Magistrate Matt Tafoya and Magistrate Michelle Lue Sang.

- b. Response from Commission on Judicial Conduct.

Ms. Bleyle stated that she has distributed to the Boardmembers a response from the Commission on Judicial Conduct.

- c. Survey results.

Ms. Bleyle noted that the Boardmembers have been provided with an extensive packet of materials consisting of Mesa City Court statistics and survey results that were recently conducted regarding the reappointments of Presiding Magistrate Tafoya and Magistrate Lue Sang. She encouraged the members to contact her if they have any questions or concerns regarding these items.

- d. Court data.

Ms. Bleyle further indicated that she has furnished the Boardmembers with a document entitled "Mesa Municipal Court Statistics" with regard to Magistrate Lue Sang.

(Discussion ensued among the Boardmembers relative to the assignment of reference checks.)

4. Scheduling of meetings and general information:

Chairman Rottman stated that the March 1, 2006 Public Hearing/Interview of Presiding Magistrate Tafoya is scheduled to begin at 5:45 p.m., followed by the Public Hearing/Interview of Magistrate Lue Sang at 6:15 p.m.

5. Convene an Executive Session.

- a. Discussion or consideration of employment, assignment, appointment, promotion or resignation of a public officer, appointee or employee of the City. (A.R.S. 38-431.03A(1))

1. Reappointment of Magistrates – Interview questions

It was moved by Boardmember Snow, seconded by Boardmember Ruffennach, that an Executive Session be convened at 8:26 a.m.

Chairman Rottman declared the motion carried unanimously.

(At 9:07 a.m., the Executive Session adjourned and the Board reconvened their regular meeting.)

It was moved by Boardmember Snow, seconded by Boardmember Ruffennach, that the order of the public hearings/interviews to be held on March 1, 2006 be reversed, with Magistrate Michelle Lue Sang being interviewed at 5:45 p.m., followed by Presiding Magistrate Matt Tafoya at 6:15 p.m.

Chairman Rottman declared the motion carried unanimously.

6. Adjournment.

It was moved by Boardmember Snow, seconded by Boardmember Ruffennach, that the meeting of the Judicial Advisory Board be adjourned at 9:08 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 1st day of February 2006. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

BARBARA JONES, CITY CLERK