

**HUMAN RELATIONS ADVISORY BOARD**  
**February 22, 2012 MINUTES**

The Human Relations Advisory Board of the City of Mesa met in a regular Human Relations Advisory Board Meeting February 22, 2012, 6:00 p.m. at the Utilities Building, 640 N. Mesa Drive.

<u>MEMBERS PRESENT</u>	<u>MEMBERS ABSENT</u>	<u>STAFF PRESENT</u>	<u>GUESTS</u>
Rory Gilbert, Chair	Terry Benelli	Ruth Giese	Lindsey Balinkie
Denise Heap, Vice Chair	Ana Cadillo		Ray Villa
Frank Johnson	Hong Chartrand		
Wayne Manske	Lela Hinds-Peterson		
Orchidia Peterson	James May		
Dean Tun Lin Moe			

1. Welcome and Introductions.

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 January 25, 2012 board meeting.

A motion was made by Ms. Peterson to approve the January 25, 2012 the Human Relations Advisory Board (HRAB) minutes. Ms. Heap seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

4. Hear a presentation and discuss Building Strong Neighborhoods Initiative by Lindsey Balinkie, City of Mesa Neighborhood Outreach Coordinator.

Lindsey Balinkie provided a summary of the Neighborhood Outreach Office Building Strong Neighborhoods Initiative (BSN). Established in 2006 the Building Strong Neighborhoods (BSN) Initiative is a comprehensive neighborhood program led by the Neighborhood Outreach Office and the community to preserve and strengthen Mesa's neighborhoods.

The BSN Initiative addresses the unique needs and diverse issues in a wide variety of neighborhoods throughout the city. Residents in a target area of 300-600 household are asked to complete a survey in identifying and prioritizing neighborhood concerns. The Neighborhood Outreach office collects the data, and presents results of the surveys at a kickoff event. During the four-week BSN Initiative, residents are provided with education, training and access to existing resources to address neighborhood issues. Action Teams are formed to create solutions to concerns identified by the neighborhood.

The BSN also includes a clean sweep in which 50-80 tons of debris removed, and also includes service projects such as painting curbs, helping paint homes, etc. The objective is to provide meaningful and positive change in neighborhoods and for residents become well organized and engaged in their community. Ms. Balinkie also gave a slide show of photos from past BSN's.

Ms. Gilbert requested information about the results of specific questions about community inclusion that the HRAB prepared to add to the survey. Ms. Balinkie advised that she would provide that information for distribution at the next board meeting. Mr. Manske commented on how the City can support neighborhoods after the BSN takes place.

5. Mesa Police Department Report.

Ray Villa announced the schedule of upcoming meetings of the Police Advisory Boards, including the Human Rights Board Clergy Board. In addition, Save the Family will be presenting a discussion on the culture of poverty for the Clergy Advisory Board on March 5<sup>th</sup> at 4pm. Also, the Police Academy begins in March. Mr. Villa also reported that there is a 4 hour component in the Police Academy on Diversity Training that was prepared by the Police Diversity Team.

6. Hear a report, discuss, and provide direction on Arizona Accord by Chair Rory Gilbert.

Ms. Gilbert reported that the HRAB is listed on the Arizona Accord web site as supporting the Arizona Accord. Ms. Gilbert also reported that in talking with Mayor Smith, he hopes that the energy will be coming from the community such as the Accord group, and that HRAB should not promote any specific agenda on the topic of immigration.

7. Watch, discuss and provide direction on bullying video.

The board viewed a video about bullying. The board discussed that one of the items they are working on is an anti-hate crime ordinance. This ordinance may also include an anti-bullying. The board also discussed how the topic of bullying could be the focus for its community conversation. Ms. Heap suggested that as an outcome of the community dialogue, there would be community support to create an anti-hate crime ordinance.

A motion was made by Ms. Petersen that the topic of bullying be the selection for the board's community dialogue event. Mr. Manske seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Tun Lin Moe commented that in order to respond to bullying is both prevention and intervention. Reporting incidents may be a way of intervening. He asked for resources on how children can report incidents. The board discussed talking with schools and Mesa police about obtaining such resources. Mr. Manske has an interest in learning about workplace bullying also. Ms. Gilbert asked Ms. Giese gather information about workplace bullying policies that are in place at the City of Mesa.

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

Ms. Heap reported that the team will proceed with conducting research on domestic partner benefits. Ms. Heap also reported that 3 speakers will educate the board on Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) at the next board meeting.

Ms. Heap advised the Ad Hoc team changed its name to better reflect its purpose. The name is Issue Research and Project Team. A motion was made by Ms. Petersen that the Ad Hoc team be renamed to Issue Research and Project Team. Mr. Johnson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Heap also reported what the team will continue to plan a community dialogue project; and requested that HRAB select a date for the event. The board came up with possible dates: April 28 and May 12. Ms. Giese will check availability of the Utilities Community Room for both days.

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

Ms. Gilbert asked the board for feedback on the draft brochure. She suggested that the information could be placed on a 2 sided postcard rather than on a tri-fold. Ms. Gilbert asked Mr. Tun Lin Moe to prepare an insert on "Why Diversity Matters" for the brochure. Ms. Gilbert also asked the board to review the "What We Do" section. The board also discussed including "sexual orientation" in the listing of human relations issues in the brochure. The board agreed to continue to provide comments to Ms. Giese so that the content could be reviewed in March.

10. Discuss and take action on items discussed at February 14, 2012 Regional Human Relations Commission meeting.

Ms. Heap and Mr. Johnson attended the February 14, 2012 regional HRC meeting. The main topic of discussion was the Arizona Accord.

11. Discuss selection of potential dates to host Regional Human Relations Commission meeting and discuss potential agenda items and /or presentations.  
City of Mesa is scheduled to host the next regional HRC meeting. The board selected May 16, 2012 as the date for hosting the event. Ms. Giese will reserve a location for the event.
12. Discuss and take action on Mayor Smith's request that the Human Relations Advisory Board create a Veterans Task Force to focus on Veterans issues.  
This item was tabled for discussion at the March 28, 2012 meeting.
13. Discuss and approve participation in Phoenix Pride parade and festival to be held on April 21-22.  
A motion was made by Ms. Heap that the HRAB participate in the Phoenix Pride parade and festival. Mr. Johnson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. The board will discuss specific details of the event at its March meeting.
14. Diversity Administrator's Report:  
The Diversity Administrator's report was tabled for discussion at the March 28, 2012 meeting.
15. Scheduling of meetings, future agenda items, and general information.  
Ms. Gilbert announced the Diversity Alliance workshop that was taking place the next day at 9 am.
16. Adjourn.  
Ms. Gilbert thanked everyone and adjourned the meeting at approximately 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ruth Giese  
Diversity Program Administrator