

HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD  
CITY OF MESA  
MESA CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
57 EAST 1<sup>ST</sup> STREET, LOWER LEVEL  
June 26, 2003  
-MINUTES-

MEMBERS

Mr. Greg Holtz, Chair  
Ms. Susan Klecka, Vice Chair  
Ms. Teresa Cotton  
Mr. Michael Graham (Excused)  
Dr. Carlos Vallejo  
Mr. Bob Hisserich  
Ms. Elaine Nelson  
Mr. Ken Salas (Excused)  
Ms. Judy Kent

Mr. Raymond Jones  
Ms. Kim Reynolds  
Ms. Linda Starr

STAFF

Ms. Nichole Ayoola  
Ms. Kathleen Kelly  
Ms. Ruth Anne Norris  
Mr. Bryan Raines  
Ms. Lisa Wilson

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Susan Klecka called the meeting to order. Upon his arrival Gregg Holtz resumed his position as chair.

DISCUSS AND APPROVE MINUTES OF MAY 22, 2003 MEETING

Mr. Holtz asked for an approval of the minutes of May 22, 2003 with the following change:

- On the second page replace "Mr. Holtz explained duties..." with "Mr. Holtz emphasized two important duties. They are the responsibility of being an advocate for the housing and human services community and the responsibility for fiscal integrity."

Ms. Klecka moved to approve the amended minutes and Teresa Cotton seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.

COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS

There were no citizen comments.

REPORT ON MONTHLY HOUSING DATA

Ruth Anne Norris, the Interim Housing Director summarized the Monthly Management Report. Changes were made to the original document and distributed to the Board. Ms. Norris reported that her office received 529 requests for housing assistance, which is an increase from last month's numbers. The number of families that Housing Services are able to assist, both through Escobedo and Section 8 remained steady.

The Housing Rehabilitation Program is projected to end with approximately 100 completed rehabilitations. About 70 are emergency grants and 30 will be significant rehabilitations.

Ms. Norris stated that during the orientation for new Board members, she would spend time explaining the three housing programs run by Housing Services.

Mr. Holtz suggested that the new members receive the definition list which helps define the report. Ms. Norris will provide the list.

There was discussion regarding the criteria used to define the term “elderly”. Mr. Hisserich asked how Housing Services’ staff determine if a client is elderly. Ms. Norris stated at some point the client would identify if they were looking to obtain senior housing, assisted living facilities, or family housing during the telephone interview.

The group discussed the issue and concluded that further clarification on the use of the term elderly would be helpful in the future. They suggested perhaps HUD required a more specific accounting of elderly individuals requesting housing.

#### DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATION FOR THE HOUSING GOVERNING BOARD ORDINANCE

Ms. Norris provided a draft of the housing governing board ordinance to the H&HSAB. The draft listed three alternatives to meet HUD requirements. City Council would have final approval but she asked for a recommendation from the Board to accept option number one:

“Adopt the ordinance establishing a Mesa Housing Services Governing Board that includes a Section 8 representative as a resident member. Once a year, or as necessary, the City Council would convene a PHA (public housing authority) Governing Board meeting during which the resident member would join them and participate in the discussion and decisions. Fiscal impact would be minimal as governing board meetings could be held before or after any regularly scheduled Council meeting or Study Session, thus avoiding additional meeting costs.”

The city attorney suggested making this person an “exofficio” member of the H&HSAB. This person would not be able to vote on issues brought to the Board but would be encouraged to participate in the meetings as a liaison between the H&HSAB and the governing board. This was the only change to the draft provided to the Board in June.

Mr. Holtz took a motion for the adoption of the draft. Ms. Klecka moved to recommend to City Council to adopt alternative number one. The motion was seconded by Ms. Cotton and passed unanimously.

#### FY 03-04 BOARD ELECTIONS

Members of the Board voted on the chair and vice chair positions for the new fiscal year. Susan Klecka was nominated for the position of chair.

Mr. Holtz took a motion. Ms. Cotton moved to nominate Ms. Klecka and Dr. Vallejo seconded. The vote passed unanimously. Ms. Klecka accepted the position of chair for the new fiscal year.

Teresa Cotton, Bob Hisserich, and Carlos Vallejo were nominated for the vice chair position. Ms. Klecka nominated Ms. Cotton. Dr. Vallejo nominated Mr. Hisserich. Mr. Hisserich and Ms. Cotton nominated Dr. Vallejo for the vice chair position.

Ms. Cotton and Dr. Vallejo each accepted the nomination. Mr. Holtz took a vote. There was one yes, three no, and two abstentions for Ms. Cotton. There were four yes, one no, and one abstention for Dr. Vallejo.

Dr. Vallejo accepted the position of Vice Chair for the 03-04 fiscal year.

## STAFF REPORT

Nichole Ayoola updated the Board on the progress of the “East Valley Needs Assessment” group, which includes the cities of Scottsdale, Tempe, Mesa, Chandler, and Gilbert and the organizations of Valley of the Sun United Way, the Mesa United Way, and the Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG). A successful survey was performed to identify the needs and gaps in service to the community. A summit is planned with a tentative date of November 14, 2003 at the Mesa Sheraton. Two consultants were hired to design the process and analyze the data collected through focus groups, surveys and key informant interviews. Ms. Ayoola stated that the final report for “Building Blocks for the Future” the East Valley Needs Assessment would be presented and made available during the summit. The summit is expected to be a large event and organizers hope to retain Janet Napolitano as the opening speaker. She also mentioned that Mayor Hawker would be addressing the group and welcoming everyone to the City of Mesa. Invitations will be sent out in late September, early October.

Ms. Ayoola announced that Teresa Cotton has chosen to complete an applied studies internship to complete her degree at ASU in the City of Mesa’s Office of Human Services. She is completing a telephone survey of Mesa’s faith-based community. Her goal is to gain a better understanding of the social services provided by local faith based organizations. Ms. Cotton was also tasked with finding out how many organizations are utilizing federal money made available by the Presidents Faith Based Initiative.

Ms. Ayoola discussed the future board-meeting schedule. She explained that due to the fairly new composition of the Board, additional hours for orientation may be provided if required. She reminded the Board of the previously scheduled Board orientation in August. Additional hours for orientation may be provided if required.

Dr. Vallejo suggested that the City of Mesa and ASU join together in a partnership. He suggested inviting President Crowe from ASU to speak with Mesa’s leaders to discuss a linkage of the two entities. Ms. Ayoola stated that this might be a discussion item for the future.

Elaine Nelson made her parting comments in which she asked the Board to remember the children when making funding decisions. She thinks the City of Mesa staff is great, and she added that Ms. Ayoola has done wonderful things and that the City was lucky to employ her.

Greg Holtz gave his parting comments and made some suggestions to the Board for next year’s topics. He stated that an item discussing Board communication should be added to the agenda in the near future

He also suggested that the H&HSAB be informed of the issues discussed by the Community Housing Task Force (CHTF) regarding the Housing Master Plan by reviewing the minutes. He’d like to see the minutes provided to the H&HSAB. They are available on the City’s Web site.

The recent budget process was also mentioned. Mr. Holtz feels that in the future, the City staff should be given a clearer understanding of what the City Council expects from the process before the budget cuts are made. It’s important that the Board convey to the Council how their allocation processes work and that there be better communication with the Council. He stated that some members of the City Council might not be familiar with the function of the H&HSAB. Mr. Holtz urged the Board to educate themselves on the issues and not be afraid to ask the hard questions.

Mr. Holtz stated that he appreciates City staff’s support.

Ms. Norris announced that there would be two community open houses to discuss the Housing Master Plan. Members of the Board are welcome to attend, which would provide an opportunity to learn more about the CHTF. The first will be held for residents in central and west Mesa on July 8<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m. in the Community Room of the Utilities Building located at 640 N. Mesa Drive. The second open house will be July 10<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m. at the Red Mountain Branch Library's Program Room, 635 N. Power Road for those residents on the east side.

As outgoing members of the Board, Mr. Holtz and Ms. Nelson were asked about their Board highlights.

Mr. Holtz stated that the Board has been provided better staff assistance than when he was first appointed. A negative highlight was this year's budget process, which he thought was a political process rather than one involving a true analysis of the programs and the agencies.

Ms. Nelson felt that one highlight was the start of the East Valley Men's Center. It brought help to many homeless men in the East Valley at a time when cities didn't recognize there was a homeless issue.

Ms. Ayoola urged new board members to gain an understanding of the non-profit agencies in Mesa. She asked them to remember that they are emissaries of the public's money and tasked members with thinking critically about how to make the system work most efficiently.

New members were urged to tour agencies funded by the City to become aware of the services provided to the community and to consider drafting a letter to the City Council asking for a liaison from City Council to attend the H&HSAB meetings. This would give Council an opportunity to become more knowledgeable of Board functions.

Dr. Vallejo stated that Debra Determan and Nichole Ayoola have shown the Board wonderful leadership with their new and innovative ideas. He encouraged the Board to focus on their highlights and realize that unfortunately, there may be obstacles and hurdles in the future.

#### ADJOURN

Mr. Holtz took a motion to adjourn. Ms. Klecka moved to adjourn and Ms. Cotton seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Nichole V. Ayoola, Human Services Specialist