

CITY OF MESA
HUMAN RELATIONS ADVISORY BOARD (HRAB)
Youth Diversity Education Team (YDET)
December 15, 2015 Minutes

The Youth Diversity Education Team of the City of Mesa met on December 15, 2015
at 5:00pm at the Mesa City Plaza, 20 E. Main St. Ste. 170.

<u>MEMBERS PRESENT</u>	<u>MEMBERS ABSENT</u>	<u>STAFF PRESENT</u>	<u>GUESTS</u>
Nadia Khalighi, Chair Cliff Moon, Vice-Chair Denise Heap Frank Johnson Martin Rios	Robert Martinez Talmage Pearce	Bethany Freeland Ruth Giese	

1. Call to Order.

Ms. Khalighi called the meeting to order at 5:06pm.

2. Items from citizens present.*

There were no citizens who requested to speak to YDET.

3. Approval of minutes from the November 17, 2015 YDET meeting.

Mr. Moon made a motion to approve the minutes from the November 17, 2015 YDET meeting. Mr. Rios seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

4. Hear an update, discuss, and take action on the following items:

(4a) Organizing youth community service projects and public education including the topic of Diversity through organizations such as: the Baha'i Community, Anti-Defamation League, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, and Gay and Lesbian Education Network.

Ms. Khalighi updated the committee regarding the first service learning project that was held on December 10, 2015. She stated that there was an excellent turn out. Ms. Heap expressed her gratitude for those involved. She also conveyed that she hoped this project could be duplicated in the future. Ms. Khalighi stated that the feedback she received was very positive and that the committee was invited back anytime. There were five youth who attended to read to the children. They received achievement certificates from the committee and felt empowered by their involvement in the community. The books that were read were lent to the committee by Dr. Reyes of the Early Childhood Education department of Mesa Community College. Ms. Khalighi stated that it was an intimate group that she felt was perfect for the committee's first experience doing this type of project. Ms. Heap asked if there was a list of the books that were not available through the Mesa Public Library. Ms. Khalighi has the list and is going to send it to the Library Board as a recommendation for purchase. Ms. Khalighi would also like to give them the list of the books that were read at the project to consider for purchase, as well. In addition, the librarians are tasked with doing projects within the community and requested to be involved in any future projects, of this nature, that the committee may hold. Mr. Rios added that he thought the books that were selected were perfect for the theme of diversity. Ms. Khalighi stated that there were also books of a bilingual nature available and that that was appreciated.

5. Discussion of current local and world events that may affect the youth of the City of Mesa.

(5a) Discuss the recent updates to the LDS church organization involving children of same-sex couples.

Ms. Heap asked Mr. Giese about her conversation with Councilmember Luna. Ms. Giese informed the committee that she now is awaiting a call back from Assistant Superintendent Bruce Cox so that they can have a discussion regarding this issue. She will inform the committee once she has more information.

(5b) Discuss the recent attacks that took place in San Bernardino, CA.

Mr. Moon was concerned that his school, the event wasn't even mentioned, so he is fairly certain that it wasn't a topic of discussion at any others, as well. Ms. Heap questioned whether or not more should be done about this. Mr. Moon suggested drafting a letter regarding the topic of discussion and sending it to the schools to help encourage discussion. Ms. Khalighi added that this same day the Los Angeles school district closed its entire district due to an unsubstantiated bomb threat. Ms. Heap stated that it would be pertinent to find out what is being done in the schools, if anything. Mr. Moon suggested that he would inquire within the social studies departments of his school to see if they have this type of topic of discussion on their syllabus' and then report back to the committee. He was unsure whether or not it was left up to the individual schools to include or if it something that is regulated by the school district.

6. Scheduling of meetings, future agenda items, announcements, and other general information.

Ms. Khalighi and Ms. Heap had spoken briefly about adding an agenda item that details the development of a panel discussion regarding diversity, race unity, ethnicity, and religious acceptance. Ms. Giese explained to the committee that any youth education is already included in their agenda via the strategic plan. Ms. Khalighi would like this panel to include more than individuals from the Muslim community, but rather encompass all types of diversity. Ms. Khalighi also knows of an individual named Brandon Bullock who will be giving a speech on Martin Luther King Day. She recommended him for the panel on the topic of race unity.

(6a) Next YDET meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 19, 2015 at 6:00pm.

7. Adjournment.

Meeting adjourned at 5:33pm.

Submitted By:



Ruth Giese,
Diversity Program Administrator