

JUDICIAL ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

May 6, 1998

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 May 6, 1998, at 8:00 a.m.

COMMITTEE PRESENT

Chairman Marilyn Wilson
James R. Hart II
James Keppel
John Kerr
Judith C.R. O'Neill
Cecil Patterson
Sylvia Garcia-Suttle

COMMITTEE ABSENT

None

STAFF PRESENT

Denise Bleyle
Linda Crocker
Barbara Jones
Ellen Pence
None

Chairman Wilson announced that Boardmember Myers has resigned from the Board and expressed her appreciation for the leadership and expertise he consistently demonstrated throughout his months of service as a member of the Judicial Advisory Board. Chairman Wilson welcomed Judge Myers' replacement, Judge Cecil Patterson, and former Boardmember Ruth McGregor's replacement, Judge James Keppel, to the meeting and thanked them for their willingness to serve as members of the Board.

In response to a request from Chairman Wilson, Boardmembers and staff introduced themselves.

Assistant to the City Manager/Board Liaison Ellen Pence advised that the Mesa City Council has selected applicants Gunn McKay and Michelle Lue Sang for appointment to the two open City Magistrate positions. Ms. Pence reported that the official swearing-in ceremony for Mr. McKay is scheduled for May 11, 1998 and May 18, 1998 for Ms. Lue Sang. Ms. Pence added that the swearing-in ceremonies will be held at City Court and invitations will be forwarded to each of the Boardmembers.

1. Approve minutes of the March 4, March 25 and March 26, 1998 meetings.

Chairman Wilson pointed out a correction to the March 4, 1998 minutes (change the word 'approved' to 'received' on page 1).

It was moved by Boardmember O'Neill, seconded by Vice Chairman Hart, that the minutes of the March 4, 1998 Judicial Advisory Board meeting be approved as amended.

Carried unanimously.

It was moved by Vice Chairman Hart, seconded by Boardmember O'Neill that the minutes of the March 25, 1998 Judicial Advisory Board meeting be approved.

Carried unanimously.

It was moved by Vice Chairman Hart, seconded by Boardmember O'Neill that the minutes of the March 26, 1998 Judicial Advisory Board meeting be approved.

Carried unanimously.

2. Discuss and consider items related to the reappointments of Presiding City Magistrate Walter Switzer, Magistrate Rebecca Standage and Magistrate Robin Allen.

A. Review applications for reappointment.

In response to a question from Boardmember Patterson relative to the fact that City Magistrates Robin Allen and Rebecca Standage's applications are missing the answers to certain questions, Chairman Wilson stated the opinion that Boardmembers' questions regarding the omissions may be addressed to the applicants during the interview process.

B. Review statistics on cases and appeals.

In response to a question from Chairman Wilson, Ms. Pence advised that the statistics on cases and appeals cover the time period July 1, 1996 through January 31, 1998.

C. Survey results will be available May 11.

Ms. Pence reported that the results of the surveys will be available the morning of May 11, 1998. Ms. Pence stated that the information will either be faxed or personally delivered to the Boardmembers for their review and consideration. Ms. Pence added that copies of the survey results will also be forwarded to the three candidates for reappointment, Presiding City Magistrate Walter Switzer and City Magistrates Rebecca Standage and Robin Allen.

Ms. Pence noted that following the interview/selection process, staff will work closely with the Court and the survey consultant in an effort to streamline future appointment/reappointment processes.

D. Finalize plans for the public hearings and interviews on May 13, 1998 in Lower Level Council Chambers:

5:00 p.m. Judge Switzer

6:00 p.m. Judge Standage
7:00 p.m. Judge Allen

Ms. Pence advised that although every effort will be expended to limit the hearing/interview process to the evening of May 13th, and added that should the hearing and/or interviews require additional time, a tentative meeting has been scheduled for May 14, 1998. Ms. Pence noted that a public hearing notice will be published in the newspapers to solicit citizen input and outlined plans for encouraging citizen attendance and input at the scheduled hearing.

Chairman Wilson briefly outlined the public hearing/interview process for the benefit of newly-appointed Boardmembers Patterson and Keppel. Chairman Wilson commented that although the interview process will be open to the public, the Board retains the option of entering into an Executive Session should they deem it appropriate to do so. Chairman Wilson added that the Board will adjourn into an Executive Session following the interviews for the purpose of deliberations. Chairman Wilson commented that should the process require additional time, the Board will announce a continuation of the meeting to a specific date and time.

Ms. Pence noted that the interviews will be videotaped for the benefit of the Council and added that a buffet will be set up in the Gold Room beginning at 4:00 p.m. on May 13th.

In response to a request from Chairman Wilson, Ms. Pence advised that the applicants will await their turn to be interviewed in the Upper Level Council Chambers and will receive prior notification that their presence will not be allowed at any interview other than their own.

4. Adjourn into an Executive Session to review interview questions, references and credit checks.

It was moved by Boardmember Kerr, seconded by Boardmember Garcia-Suttle, that the meeting of the Judicial Advisory Board adjourn into an Executive Session at 8:29 a.m.

Carried unanimously.

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 6th day of May 1998. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

Dated this ____ day of _____ 1998

BARBARA JONES, CITY CLERK