

CITY OF MESA
HUMAN RELATIONS ADVISORY BOARD (HRAB)
Youth Diversity Education Team (YDET)
May 17, 2016 Minutes

The Youth Diversity Education Team of the City of Mesa met on May 17, 2016
at 5:00pm at Mesa City Plaza, 20 E Main St. Ste. 170.

MEMBERS PRESENT
Nadia Khalighi, Chair
Cliff Moon, Vice-Chair
Robert Martinez
Martin Rios

MEMBERS ABSENT
Denise Heap
Frank Johnson

STAFF PRESENT
Bethany Freeland
Ruth Giese

GUESTS

1. Call to Order.

Ms. Khalighi called the meeting to order at 5:10pm.

2. Items from citizens present.*

There were no citizens who requested to speak to YDET.

3. Approval of minutes from the March 22, March 29, April 5, April 12, April 19, and April 26, 2016 YDET meetings.

Mr. Moon made a motion to approve the minutes from the March 22, March 29, April 5, April 12, April 19, and April 26, 2016 YDET Special Meetings. 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.

(4a-1) Recap of the 2016 Youth Peace-Building Summit that was held on Saturday, May 7, 2016.

Ms. Khalighi stated that she brought the receipts for the items that were bought by the Subcommittee for the event. She felt that it was a good idea for them to get an idea of the cost of the Summit for reference in future years. Mr. Moon stated that he had spent around \$278 in total. He also offered the Committee some of his reflections on the Summit itself. He suggested that letters of "thanks" be written to any of the outside organizations, as well as internal partners from the City who helped make the Summit a success. Ms. Giese suggested that the Committee draft letters tailored to the specific area that the volunteers contributed in. Mr. Moon stated that he would be happy to do that and Ms. Freeland said she would be happy to send those letters out once she received them. Mr. Moon thought that the layout of the exhibitors could be improved upon for upcoming years. He didn't feel that the youth really visited the exhibitor booths. He also thought it would be a good idea to add an optional parent involvement component. In this way, the parents can be privy to what the children are learning and help to reinforce that once the Summit is over. The teachers who gave input on the Summit suggested that attendance would be better if it were held during the week and not so close to the end of the school year. Mr. Moon also suggested that the surveys that were given to the students should have been provided in both English and Spanish. He also felt that opening up the Summit to students in middle school may be a very positive addition. He informed the Committee that according to studies, there are more conflict issues within the middle schools than high schools. The whole

Committee felt that the keynote speaker, Mr. Colby Jeffers, did a fantastic job engaging the students and presenting a positive, relevant message. It was noted that prior to the sessions beginning, the students were quiet and guarded. Post sessions, the students were actively engaged with each other and seemed to make lasting connections with one another. Mr. Moon presented the data that was collected from the Youth Community Involvement Survey. Ms. Khalighi commented on question number four that outlines whether or not improving their communities is their responsibility. Around 70% of the Youth involved stated that they “agreed” or “strongly agreed” that that was so. The qualitative data was also referenced. Some of the positive thoughts from the students included: “(My favorite part of the Summit was) Getting to meet new people honestly,” “Having interactive discussion regarding peace-building.” Ms. Giese suggested, in the future, that the Summit partner more strong with the schools. This way, they can have the attendance that they desire and be able to do a half day at the school in order to let the students out just prior to lunch and hopefully save on the cost of the Summit in that regard.

(4a-2) Organizing a mural project at Community Partners School.

Ms. Khalighi reiterated the fact that this project will be commencing in the fall and that the Committee has gathered gift cards from Walmart in order to secure the supplies needed.

(4a-3) Organizing additional Youth Reading Service Projects.

This item was not discussed at this meeting.

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

(5a) Next YDET meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 16, 2016 at 5:00pm.

6. Adjournment.

Meeting adjourned at 5:45pm.

Submitted By:



Ruth Giese,
Diversity Program Administrator