

CITY OF MESA
HUMAN RELATIONS ADVISORY BOARD (HRAB)
Youth Diversity Education Team (YDET)
January 19, 2016 Minutes

The Youth Diversity Education Team of the City of Mesa met on January 19, 2016
at 5:00pm at the Mesa City Plaza, 20 E. Main St. Ste. 170.

MEMBERS PRESENT
Nadia Khalighi, Chair
Cliff Moon, Vice-Chair
Denise Heap
Robert Martinez
Talmage Pearce
Martin Rios

MEMBERS ABSENT
Frank Johnson

STAFF PRESENT
Bethany Freeland
Ruth Giese

GUESTS

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 December 15, 2015 YDET meeting.

Mr. Rios made a motion to approve the minutes from the December 15, 2015 YDET meeting. Mr. Martinez seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

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

(4a) Organizing youth community service projects 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 Board on communication that she had with Amy at Care Partnership in regards to the potential mural. Care Partnership would also like to continue doing the reading service project involving the older youth reading to the after school children. Ms. Heap asked whether or not there were any groups from Mr. Moon's high school who would be interested in participating in the project. She also is in agreement that it is a good idea to repeat the reading project. Ms. Heap also suggested that the YDET lead the youth volunteers for another installment of the project and then had it over to them so that they may carry it on in the future. Ms. Khalighi informed the Board that there is an interest of ten to twenty high school students that are interested in participating, as well as individuals from the Baha'i Youth Empowerment Group. It was decided by the group that the next reading project should be held in February as to allow enough time to also complete the mural project. Ms. Khalighi suggested that Thursday's seem to work best for Care Partnership. The suggested date was February 25, 2016. Mr. Pearce made a motion to hold the next youth service project at Care Partnership School on February 25, 2016. Mr. Martinez seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. Mr. Martinez questioned what ways the committee could garner better youth participation in the projects. Mr. Moon stated that more participants may not be necessary as the group of children was not very large. He also suggested that if they wanted more kids to attend they could develop a flier to hand out to the feeder schools or hang at Care Partnership to make more kids aware of the activity. The committee agreed that the books that were read at the last project date were very fitting and had the type of the subject matter that they were looking for. Ms. Khalighi stated that there was a list of around thirty books related to diversity

that was supplied by Dr. Reyes, so they have many to choose from. Ms. Giese also reminded the committee about the regional library in Gilbert. Which services multiple cities, including Mesa.

Ms. Khalighi wanted to discuss the specifics of the mural project at Care Partnership. Including date, times, number of youth needed, procuring supplies, and who the artist of the mural might be. She also suggested that maybe an art contest might be a good way to find an appropriate artist. Ms. Khalighi would also like to use this mural at Care Partnership as a spring board to putting a mural somewhere more central, like in downtown Mesa. Ms. Anderson suggested having the paint donated by a company and including their logo somewhere in the mural. Ms. Heap suggested appointing a couple of the committee members to take the lead on this project, have them research and ask for paint donations, and then report their progress at the upcoming Board meeting in two weeks. The timeframe for the project will be decided once an artist is chosen and a decision is made as to the subject matter of the mural itself. Mr. Martinez volunteered to speak to the local Ace Hardware about a possible donation of paint, as well as getting information on the type of paint that might be needed. Ms. Giese also suggested that the committee speak to the Downtown Mesa Association about the rules as to putting sponsor logos on local walls.

Mr. Moon wanted to address the issue of bullying that is mentioned in this agenda item, as well as in the Board's Strategic Plan and he wanted to combat the issue by "building peace" as opposed fighting bullying. He suggested putting together a Youth Peace Building Mini-Conference. He identified five specific objectives that this will accomplish: introduce youth to the complexity of peace building, enhance the role of conflict resolution skills, to promote the development of young people as peace builders, instill in youth the active role of being a positive bystander, and raise the visibility of positive examples of non-violent expression of civil rights. Mr. Moon spoke with individuals at Community Bridges, Northstar, Glisten, and the Professor of Secondary Educational Counselling at Northern Arizona University. All of them were interested in facilitating a session at the conference. The curriculum describes the objectives, lists time frames, and can be adapted to individual teaching styles. He also stated that Dobson High School, Mountain View High School, and Westwood High School are all interested in being participants. Mr. Moon suggested talking to local business', various foundations, and local non-profits for helping with funding. Ms. Giese also suggested getting the permission of the school administrators before getting the teachers involvement. Ms. Heap made a motion to begin work on Youth Peace Building and Justice Conference. Mr. Rios seconded and the motion carried unanimously. The Committee then agreed to meet every Tuesday to discuss and plan the project through the month of April.

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

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

This was not discussed by the Committee at this meeting.

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

This was not discussed by the Committee at this meeting.

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

(6a) Next YDET meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 16, 2016 at 5:00pm.

7. Adjournment.

Meeting adjourned at 5:45pm.

Submitted By:



Ruth Giese,
Diversity Program Administrator