

---

**CITY OF MESA  
HUMAN RELATIONS ADVISORY BOARD (HRAB)  
August 26, 2017 Minutes**

The Human Relations Advisory Board (HRAB) of the City of Mesa met on August 26, 2017 at 8:00am at Mesa City Plaza, 20 E Main St. Suite 170.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Cliff Moon – Chair  
Colleen Byron- Vice Chair  
Joseph Holmes  
Winnie Kaplan  
Nadia Khalighi  
Cassandra Sampson  
Silvia Stanford  
Mark Tompert  
Keola Tweedy  
Louis Wade

MEMBERS ABSENT

Robert Martinez

STAFF PRESENT

Bethany Freeland  
Ruth Giese  
Mayor John Giles  
Dennis Newburn

GUESTS

1. Chair's Call to Order'

Dr. Moon called the meeting to order at 8:00am.

(1a) Introduction and announcement of new Board member, Silvia Stanford.

Ms. Stanford gave a brief overview of her work and community involvement which includes being employed by the City of Phoenix and President of the National Forum for Black Public Administrators.

(1b) Introduction of Dennis Newburn, Community Revitalization Coordinator.

Mr. Newburn gave a brief introduction of his role with the City of Mesa Housing and Community Development division. He is responsible for the management of the Federal Community Development Block Grant, as well as the Federal Emergency Solutions Grant Program and the local Human Services Program.

2. Opening remarks from Mayor John Giles.

Mayor Giles wanted to thank the Board for the important work that they do. He reiterated that the issues that the Board will be addressing are very important, especially in today's political climate. He asked that when the Board is discussing their goals for the next two-year strategic plan that they try to set goals that are measurable. Dr. Moon thanked the Mayor for acknowledging the diversity that exists in the City of Mesa and the need to make those topics a priority.

3. Items from Citizens Present. \*

There were no citizens present who wished to speak to the Board.

4. Approval of minutes from the May 24, 2017 HRAB meeting.

Dr. Byron motioned to approve the minutes with submitted changes to item 12, 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Convention of the Mainland Council added Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs and Arizona Asian American Association added General Meeting. Ms. Khalighi seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

5. Review, discuss, and provide direction on the Strategic Plan.

The group participated in an ice-breaker activity to get to know everyone better and to familiarize Mr. Newburn with the group. Afterward, Mr. Newburn asked questions that encouraged the Board to consider what their role within the community is, as well as what direction they would like to move in. The Board felt that their presence in the community is not well known. It was unanimously agreed that the Board needs to work to bring a greater awareness of their existence to the community at large. Some ways to address this involve partnering with other community forums and attending more free community events.

For the next portion of the session, ground rules were laid and the group discussed the Board's various strengths, opportunities, weaknesses, and threats. Afterward, Ms. Giese briefed the members about the roles of the Board and the roles of the City. She reminded them that they are meant to advise Mayor and Council on recommendations to help address issues and wants by the residents of Mesa in regards to topics of diversity. She asked that the Board members continue to connect with other community members and leaders as they attend different events. This will also help to increase Board visibility.

The group expressed at various times during the session the need to reach out to underrepresented populations to see how their needs within the community can be better met. It was suggested that various community dialogues could be organized. The group further discussed how to best identify the issues to be addressed by talking with representatives of these diverse populations. (IE Disabled, veteran, and youth educators) They also thought it would be valuable to partner with Police and Fire.

Dr. Moon expressed the need develop some activities that are based on community education. It was felt by the group that the more educated the community is on issues and topics of diversity, the more they will be equipped to learn and grow towards acceptance and not just tolerance. He also stated that the new Strategic Plan should be measurable and be driven by community feedback. One of these objectives is the Annual Peace Building Summit. Dr. Moon asked if the Diversity Office could help provide funds or find ways to procure funds for this event in the future. It was agreed that the Diversity Department could help with this.

6. Hear, discuss, and create Board work plan for 2017-2019.

Mr. Newburn suggested that the Board develop a significant participation goal statement that addresses the commitment of each member.

Ms. Giese made some suggestions regarding the future strategic plan development. She suggested doing better outreach for potential Board members to bring in members that are more representative of the Mesa population. She also suggested that the Board could partner with the City to work off existing partnerships to promote City court and Veteran programs.

Dr. Moon added his ideas on developing a Women's Empowerment Conference, a Pride event hosted in Mesa, and aiding in the MLK Day Parade.

Dr. Moon stressed that whatever the new plan encompasses that each member adopt an "all in" mentality. Each member has their own strengths to offer and the Board accomplishes much more when it has all its resources to draw off of. In the interest of time, it was decided that the upcoming meeting would be a working meeting that would focus on reviewing, refining, and approving the new Strategic Plan.

(6a) Organize Subcommittees

It was decided by the Board that the creation of Subcommittees should be delayed until the 2017-19 Strategic Plan is completed and approved so that they can create Subcommittees that will address the goals of the plan more appropriately. Henceforth, the scheduled Subcommittee meetings for the month of September will be cancelled.

7. Scheduling of meetings, future agenda items, and general information.

(7a) The Regional Human Relations Commission meeting will be held on August 31, 2017 at 5pm in the Starlight Room of the Arizona Museum of Natural History (53 N Macdonald).

(7b) The 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Multicultural Education Conference will be held on September 9, 2017 at 7am at Mesa Community College (1833 W Southern Ave.)

(7c) The next HRAB meeting will be held on September 27, 2017 at 6pm in the Lower Level City Council Chambers (57 E 1<sup>st</sup> St).

8. Take group photo for website.

9. Adjournment.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:23pm.

**\*Members of the audience may address the Board on any item. The Arizona Open Meeting Law (ARS § 38-431 et seq.) limits the Human Relations Advisory Board to discussing only those matters listed on the agenda and other matters related thereto.**

**The City of Mesa is committed to making its public meetings accessible. For accommodations, translation, or additional information, please contact the City Diversity Office at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting at (480) 644-5432 or AzRelay 7-1-1 for those who are deaf or hard of hearing.**

**Si necesita asistencia o traducción en español, favor de llamar al menos 48 horas antes de la reunión al 480-644-2767.**