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

The Human Relations Advisory Board (HRAB) of the City of Mesa met on April 26, 2017 at 6:00pm at Mesa City Plaza 20 E Main St Suite 170.

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

MEMBERS ABSENT

Robert Martinez

STAFF PRESENT

Bethany Freeland
Ruth Giese
Kelly Gregan
Mayor John Giles
Natalie Lewis
Ian Linnsen
Cm. Jeff Thompson
Ray Villa

GUESTS

Dr. Michael Cowan
Kiana Sears

1. Chair's Call to Order

Mr. Tompert called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. Items from Citizens Present. *

There were no citizens present to speak to the Board.

3. Hear a presentation, discuss and make a recommendation on a presentation by Mesa Mayor John Giles on the topics of:

(3a) The City Council's strategic planning priority topic of diversity; and

Mayor John Giles explained to the Board that he and City Council have been spending time reviewing strategic goals for the City. Collectively, they decided to make diversity one of Mesa's strategic planning initiatives. Diversity is an important topic in Mesa and deserves to be a focus. The goal is to also utilize electronic and social media more effectively to deliver information to the residents of Mesa. He asked that the Board bring before himself and Council recommendations on ways they can help support this new initiative. The Board agreed to discuss this at their next strategic planning session in August 2017.

(3b) An update on a non-discrimination ordinance for the City.

Mayor Giles remarked on the study that the Board completed with help from the Morrison Institute several years ago. This study resulted in twenty-two recommendations to the Board on ways to address all different subject matters relating to diversity within the City of Mesa. One of those recommendations was to pursue a non-discrimination ordinance. Mayor Giles continued by saying that while a non-discrimination ordinance is important, polling shows that Mesa is not currently ready to embrace one. Other cities have not had success in passing ordinances of this type before they are politically prepared to do so. He informed the Board that he would like to wait to pursue an ordinance until residents are prepared to accept it even though it may be able to pass through Council. He also stated that local LGBT groups have expressed not wanting to pass an ordinance that may not be as all-encompassing as they would like. The consensus is that it would be better to wait until a comprehensive non-discrimination ordinance can be accepted. It was felt by the Board that the ordinance would help to liven economic development in Mesa. Mayor Giles stated that he will continue promoting the One Mesa pledge.

4. Discussion regarding partnering with the Mesa Public School System on addressing matters of diversity and inclusion within the City of Mesa.

Ms. Kiana Sears introduced herself and briefly shared her background with the Board. She also discussed how Mesa Public Schools and the Board can combine their resources to help address the topic of diversity within Mesa on a broader scale. Dr. Michael Cowan supported this idea and agreed that the Board, the City of Mesa, Mesa Public Schools and other educational entities can further develop a rich partnership while coming together to share ideas on how they have found success in promoting the topic of diversity. Mr. Tompert made a motion to have this remain a standing item on the agenda and to be further discussed at the Board's strategic planning session in August 2017. Dr. Byron seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

5. Approval of minutes from the March 22, 2017 HRAB meeting.

Board Member Tweedy requested modifications be made to agenda item number ten and number eleven. Dr. Moon made a motion to approve the minutes, as modified, from the March 22, 2017 Board meeting. Dr. Byron seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

6. Discuss and take action on Mesa Police Department (MPD) Monthly Community Engagement Report.

(6a) Updates on Diversity related police incidents and activities.

Dr. Moon asked Mr. Villa about the My Brother's Keeper initiative. Mr. Villa had no current updates but stated he would look into it.

(6b) Updates on scheduling of upcoming Police Advisory Board meetings.

Mr. Villa informed the Board of several upcoming community meetings including the Asian Advisory Board and a meeting regarding the Community Together Program. An

invitation was also extended to attend the Open House for the four remaining finalists for Mesa Police Chief.

- (6c) Updates by Dr. Byron regarding the Police Community Forums and statistics of police activity in the community.

More statistical data was received from the Mesa Police Department(MPD), but it is still incomplete. There will be another meeting between Board members and MPD to talk about how the correct information can be obtained.

7. Discuss and take action on items presented by the Youth Diversity Education Team (YDET).

- (7a) Organize 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.

(6a-1) Organizing of a 2nd Annual Youth Peace Building Summit.

The YDET reviewed the material being developed for the upcoming Summit on Saturday, April 29, 2017 to be held at Wilkes University (245 W 2nd St). They continued discussing obtaining goods and materials donations, securing Summit attendees, and day-of, run-of-show logistics.

8. Discuss and take action on items presented by the Disabilities Action Team.

- (8a) Hear presentation/discussion from City of Mesa Transit Services Director.

The DAT had their regular meeting with the Transit Services Director to receive updates on the Dial-A-Ride and Ride Share programs. In conjunction with that update, there will be discussions regarding bolstering public transportation over the next few years.

- (8b) Organizing a meeting a presentation regarding individuals with mental health and substance abuse issues to the Chamber of Commerce.

The DAT was supplied with the printed material that will be distributed by the Mesa Chamber of Commerce regarding business hiring practices of individuals with mental health and substance abuse issues. The DAT and Board are also invited to attend Mesa Morning Live on Friday, May 12, 2017 beginning at 6:30AM at Crescent Crowne Distributing. The airing will feature discussion presented by Marc Community Resources fulfilling this portion of the item that is outlined in the Board's two-year strategic plan.

9. Discuss and take action on the following standing items outlined in the 2015-17 Strategic Plan.

- (9a) Updates by Mr. Rios regarding 21st Century Policing.

Mr. Rios shared an article addressing rising crime rates in the United States.

- (9b) Updates on increasing the number of speakers enrolled in the Speaker's Bureau and marketing the availability of the Speaker's Bureau as a community resource.

There were no updates regarding this item.

10. Hear reports on conferences and/or meetings attended.

Board Member Tweedy: Cyclo Mesa Bike Festival on April 1, 2017
Phoenix Pride Parade on April 2, 2017
Lau Kanaka No Hawaii (LKNH) Monthly General Meeting April 8, 2017
LKNH Events Committee Meeting April 9, 2017
Coffee with a Cop April 26, 2017

11. Scheduling of meetings, future agenda items, and general information, including those set forth below.

- (11a) The next Subcommittee meetings will be held on Thursday, May 18, 2017: Youth Diversity Education Team beginning at 5:00PM and Disabilities Action Team beginning at 5:45PM. This time, date, and/or location may be subject to change.
- (11b) The next Board meeting will be held on May 24, 2017 at 6:00PM at the Lower Level Mesa City Council Chambers.
- (11c) YDET 2nd Annual Peace Building Summit- Saturday, April 29, 2017 at Wilkes University (245 W 2nd St. Mesa, AZ 85201).
- (11d) Marc Community Resources to speak at Mesa Morning Live event on the topic of businesses and hiring practices of individuals with mental health and substance abuse issues- Crescent Crown Distributing (1640 W Broadway Rd Mesa, AZ 85202). Event to begin at 6:30AM.
- (11e) Discuss hosting the Regional Human Relations Commission Meeting in the fall of 2017.

Tentative dates will be brought to the Board at the next regular meeting.

12. Adjournment.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:46 p.m.

***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.**

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