
**CITY OF MESA
HUMAN RELATIONS ADVISORY BOARD (HRAB)
May 19, 2021 Minutes**

The Human Relations Advisory Board (HRAB) of the City of Mesa met on May 19, 2021.
at 6:00pm via ZOOM.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Ron Williams- Chair
Tom Brennan
Colleen Byron
William Campos
Margaret Duarte
Joseph Holmes
Bill McAllister
Jared Smith- Vice-Chair
Lou Wade

MEMBERS ABSENT

Amy-Lyn Faatoafe

STAFF PRESENT

Andrea Alicoate
Cisco Luzania

GUESTS

Councilmember Jen Duff
Nadia Khalighi
Shannon Smith

1. Chair's Call to Order.

Mr. Williams, called the meeting to order at 6:01pm.

(1a) Announcement of excused absences.

There were no excused absences.

2. Items from Citizens Present.

No citizens wished to speak to the board.

3. Approval of minutes from the April 28, 2021 HRAB meeting.

It was moved by Mr. Smith, seconded by Mr. Holmes that the above-mentioned minutes be accepted as written.

Upon tabulation of votes, it showed:

AYES- Mr. Williams, Mr. Brennan, Dr. Byron, Mr. Campos, Ms. Duarte, Mr. Holmes, Mr. McAllister, Mr. Smith, Mr. Wade.

NAYS- None

4. Hear and discuss presentation from Arizona at Work.

Mr. Shannon Smith was present from Arizona at Work to give a presentation on programs and services from the organization and how they may be of benefit to Mesa residents. Mr. Smith explained that Arizona at Work is a no-cost employment readiness service that connect local employers who have immediate job openings with individuals who are in need of employment. They work in collaboration with several state and local agencies including the Arizona Department of Economic Security, Arizona Commerce Authority, and the Arizona Office of Economic Opportunity.

With over 50 office locations, the organization can work in every part of state and with local workforce initiatives. The main purpose of the organization is to provide innovative workforce solutions to employers and job seekers. The presenter displayed data that showed how the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic had affected hiring and employment levels both statewide and in the Maricopa County area. This included an overview of their website where they provided service updates to Maricopa County that included inquiry forms on how to navigate the pandemic while seeking employment. He spoke about how Mesa is home to two different offices that Arizona at Work operate out of to provide employment connections with residents. He also spoke about how each county has its own local board that connect job seekers with locally based services.

In response to a question by Mr. Wade concerning the availability of information and posting of resource timelines, Mr. Smith responded that Arizona at Work posts monthly calendars specifically orientated to the region (i.e., East Valley). The calendars include events like virtual orientations, virtual employment academies and youth assessments. He spoke about the introduction and expansion of entrepreneurship classes to promote self-ran businesses. Mr. Williams, Mr. Smith, and the rest of the board thanked the presenter for the information.

5. Hear and discuss creation of educational HRAB community forums.

Mr. Williams explained that he will be working with staff over the summer on the format and plans for the learning series. Board members may be contacted in the summer for assistance.

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

- (6a) Announcement of expiring term for Colleen Byron and celebration of her years of service.

Staff and board members recognized and thanked Dr. Byron for her many years of service on HRAB.

- (6b) Next HRAB meeting will be held on August 25, 2021 at 6pm.

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

Dr. Byron announced the Zen Nights Juneteenth event to be held on June 18th from 6-10pm in Downtown Mesa.

8. Adjournment.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:53PM