
**CITY OF MESA
HUMAN RELATIONS ADVISORY BOARD (HRAB)
August 23, 2023 Minutes**

The Human Relations Advisory Board (HRAB) of the City of Mesa met on August 23, 2023 at 6:00pm in the Lower Level, City Council Chambers, 57 E First St.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Ron Williams, Chair
Christiana Hammond, Vice-Chair
Nina Allred
Brett Caldwell
William Campos
Rochelle Johns
Yudit Nonthe-Sanchez
Abram Ellsworth
Sabrina Dobson
Mahmoud Riyah

MEMBERS ABSENT

Oscar White

STAFF PRESENT

Andrea Alicoate
Elisha Gutierrez

GUESTS

1. Chair's Call to Order.

Mr. Williams called the meeting to order at 6:00PM.

(1a) Announcement of excused absences.

Oscar White was announced as an excused absence for this meeting.

(1b) Announcement and introduction of new HRAB members: Sabrina Dobson, Abram Ellsworth and Mahmoud Riyad.

The Board welcomed the new members and introduced themselves.

2. Items from Citizens Present.

No citizens wished to speak to the board.

3. Approval of minutes from the May 24, 2023 HRAB meeting.

It was moved by Ms. Allred and seconded by Ms. Johns that the above-mentioned minutes be accepted as written.

Upon tabulation of votes, it showed:

AYES- Ms. Allred, Ms. Johns, Mr. Caldwell, Mr. Campos, Ms. Dobson, Mr. Ellsworth, Mr. Riyad, Ms. Hammond, Ms. Nonthe-Sanchez, Mr. Williams

NAYS- None

4. Hear, discuss and take action on the selection of Vice-Chair.

Mr. Williams commented that he provided the board with criteria, participation, and seniority and was honored to serve for one more year as Chair. He mentioned he spoke with the members that were interested in being Vice-Chair and members are in support of his nomination to have Ms. Hammond be elected as Vice-Chair.

It was moved by Mr. Williams and seconded by Ms. Johns that the aboved-mentioned selection of Vice-Chair be accepted as written.

Upon tabulation of votes, it showed:

AYES- Ms. Allred, Ms. Johns, Mr. Caldwell, Mr. Campos, Ms. Dobson, Mr. Ellsworth, Mr. Riyad, Ms. Hammond, Ms. Nonthe-Sanchez, Mr. Williams

NAYS- None

5. Hear and discuss a presentation on the previous 2021-2023 HRAB Strategic Plan, including the purpose and function of the HRAB, board process, and role.

Ms. Alicoate, Director of Diversity & Engagement, provided a presentation to the HRAB regarding the previous 2021-2023 HRAB Strategic Plan, including the purpose and function of the HRAB, board process, and role. Ms. Alicoate stated this is a moment to reevaluate and update the boards strategic plan. She provided an overview of the HRAB purpose, mission, vision, and goals. The board's ongoing goals are research, educate and act, and measure. She made brief remarks on how their one-hour monthly meeting time shall be spent listening to presentations by different speakers, along with their own research in the community. She stated most of their time will be dedicated to doing research to have a diverse perspective and inclusive viewpoint that will be brought into conversation in the HRAB meetings. Ms. Alicoate explained how staff will assist with tracking the work being done in a measurable way that can be reported.

Ms. Alicoate explained the role of the HRAB is to provide advisement, recommendation, and support to City Council pertaining to prevalent issues. She provided information on how the HRAB should be an extension of Mayor and City Council by being visible in the community, along with having meaningful discussions when meeting. Ms. Alicoate presented HRAB with tools for assessing discussion items and how they should be brought to the board. She informed the members that presentations on City programs and services will be provided to them for the opportunity to give input that will help impact change.

6. Hear and discuss an update on current and future HRAB projects and events for FY 23-24, including the Together Mesa initiative and related programs.

Ms. Alicoate provided an update and presentation to the HRAB regarding current and future HRAB projects and events the year, including the Together Mesa initiative and related programs. Ms. Alicoate provided the HRAB with a calendar with upcoming events.

Ms. Alicoate briefly presented on the Together Mesa webpage that hosts items such as the recent Honorary Street Signs, Together Mesa Community Learning Series and how to access the videos, Art in the Park, Together in Services, and other programs. She mentioned how the HRAB will have the opportunity to engage with the community through Art in the Park and they will be able to provide input in the future as the program is still in development. Ms. Alicoate presented a video to the HRAB on the All-America City Experience Award and how the Together Mesa initiative was part of the branding that helped the City of Mesa win the award. Ms. Alicoate gave Ms. Allred a special thank you for her service as a part of our delegation on behalf of Mesa Public Schools.

7. Hear, discuss and provide direction on the 2023-2025 HRAB Strategic Plan.

Ms. Alicoate led the group into an exercise with the following questions: When you think about Mesa, what diversity, equity, or inclusion issues concern you the most? What issues are you most passionate about addressing as a board member? What City programs or services are you interested in learning more about? How can/how does the board bring value to the Mesa community? What are your future goals that you would like to achieve while serving on the board? Each individual wrote down their answers that will be accumulated into the strategic plan.

8. Discuss and take action on the cancellation or rescheduling of the following Board meetings:

(8a) Rescheduling of November 22, 2023 Board meeting to November 29, 2023.

(8b) Cancellation of December 27, 2022 Board meeting.

It was moved by Ms. Hammond and seconded by Mr. Caldwell that the above-mentioned rescheduling of meetings be accepted as written. Mr. Williams asked if there would be any discussion. Mr. Ellsworth provided comments on community needs being at a peak during the holiday times. He inquired about having an early December meeting. Mr. Williams asked for Ms. Alicoate to provide additional context. She commented that it would be possible to provide alternative dates. She mentioned she would need to confirm the space availability and suggested possibly moving the November meeting earlier. She commented on past instances and reminded the board about meeting the quorum to avoid canceling the meeting. She deferred back to the board. Mr. Caldwell suggested doing the meeting via Zoom. Ms. Alicoate will provide the board with additional information at the next meeting to continue the discussion at the next meeting and table the motion until then.

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

(9a) Together Mesa Art in the Park Board collaboration meeting will be held on September 13, 2023 at 12pm via ZOOM.

- (9b) Together Mesa Art in the Park Board collaboration meeting will be held on September 27, 2023 at 12pm via ZOOM.
- (9c) Next HRAB meeting will be held on September 27, 2023 at 6pm in the Lower-Level City Council Chambers (57 E 1st St).

Mr. Williams went over each item. Ms. Alicoate provided an overview of each of the items. She also provided information on the Share Your Roots community event and invited HRAB to participate as an option.

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

Mr. Ellsworth reported his attendance to the Mayor's Faith Leader Breakfast where the Together in Service initiative was presented early that morning.

Ms. Nonthe-Sanchez reported she attended an ASU event where Janelle Monáe was a guest speaker who discussed kindness and inspiration.

Ms. Allred reported that over the summer attend the All-America City Award Event in Denver with Ms. Alicoate. In July she partnered with Community Bridges Inc. for a back-to-school event. In July and in August she attended two meetings with the i.d.e.a. Museum Foundation Board. She attended weekly meetings with the East Valley Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and the multicultural fair that will be coming up in December. She mentioned meeting with school principals and Mesa Police Department to plan the next season of SPARC which is a sports program for the community.

Mr. Campos reported he attended a Knights of Columbus meeting in June. He also attended the last two Taste of Mesa events hosted by the Mesa Chamber of Commerce. He said he has communicated with Palo Verde Foundation who will be having a charity golf tournament coming up.

Ms. Hammond reported that she was a volunteer camp counselor for one•n•ten in Prescott. She also attended the Mayor's Faith Leader Breakfast where the Together in Service initiative was presented early that morning.

Mr. Caldwell reported that he attended the Mesa Police Department's Hate Crimes Community Forum on August 2.

Mr. Riyah reported that he had a meeting with Arizona Helping Hands to help them with adding artificial intelligence to their website.

Mr. Williams reported that he met with the Lehi Neighborhood Association and toured the Lehi community, attended the send-off for the All-America City Award Event and the National Speech and Debate Association Hall of Fame dinner. He also served on the Visit Mesa Board of Directors as the treasurer, attended the Visit Mesa strategic planning session, and the virtual Mesa Police Foundation as a new board member as well as

attended the Yes for Mesa Schools Steering Committee meeting, a community outreach meeting at St. Lukes, and General Plan Advisory Committee meeting where he serves as the Chair. On July 28 he attended a meeting at the home of the Paulus' where information was provided on College Bound AZ. They honored Ms. Nonthe-Sanchez and the success of the program for college students.

11. Adjournment.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15pm.

***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.

Submitted By:



Andrea Alicoate,
Director of Diversity & Engagement