
**CITY OF MESA
HUMAN RELATIONS ADVISORY BOARD (HRAB)
March 27, 2024 Minutes**

The Human Relations Advisory Board (HRAB) of the City of Mesa met on March 27, 2024 at 6:00pm in the Lower Level, City Council Chambers, 57 E First St.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Christiana Hammond, Vice-Chair
Nina Allred
William Campos
Sabrina Dobson
Abram Ellsworth
Rochelle Johns
Oscar White

MEMBERS ABSENT

Mahmoud Riyad
Yudit Nonthe Sanchez

STAFF PRESENT

Andrea Alicoate
Elisha Gutierrez
Bianca Amin

GUESTS

Ron Williams
Jane Steill

1. Chair's Call to Order.

Ms. Hammond called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

(1a) Announcement of excused absences.

Mahmoud Riyad and Yudit Nonthe Sanchez were announced as an excused absence for this meeting.

(2b) Announcement of resignation of Chair Ron Williams

Ms. Alicoate, Director of Diversity & Engagement, announced that Chair Ron Williams submitted his resignation. Vice-Chair Christiana Hammond, present board members, and staff thanked Mr. Williams for his service to the board. In turn, Mr. Williams provided personal remarks to the board.

2. Items from Citizens Present. *

No citizens wished to speak to the board.

3. Approval of minutes from the January 24, 2024 HRAB meeting.

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

Upon tabulation of votes, it showed:

AYES- Ms. Hammond, Ms. Allred, Mr. Campos, Ms. Dobson, Mr. Ellsworth, Ms. Johns, and Mr. White

NAYS- None

4. Hear and discuss a presentation from One-n-Ten, a local nonprofit serving LGBTQ+ youth, regarding their organization and impact in Mesa.

This item will be rescheduled; no action taken by the board.

5. Hear and discuss a presentation on Mesa's Land Acknowledgement.

Ms. Alicoate provided HRAB with a presentation on Mesa's Land Acknowledgement as the City acknowledges that we gather on the homeland of the Native people and their ancestors, who have inhabited this landscape from time immemorial to the present day. She emphasized that the landscape is sacred and reflects cultural values central to the O'odham (known as the Pima) and the Piipaash (known as the Maricopa) way of life and their self-definition. She shared a video clip of Mayor Giles' 2024 State of the City where the acknowledgment highlighted the partnership with the City and Arizona's Tribal nations. This acknowledgment demonstrates our commitment to work in partnership with Ancestral Indigenous Communities to foster understanding, appreciation, and respect for this heritage. Ms. Alicoate also the details of the recent proclamation that took place in February. She reviewed the webpage dedicated to the acknowledgment and the appropriate delivery of formats. She concluded the presentation by answering questions and receiving feedback from board members.

6. Hear and discuss the public input process for Building Mesa's Future.

Ms. Alicoate gave HRAB a presentation on Building Mesa's Future which focused on the public input process. She explained the various methods the public can participate in providing feedback on the proposed 2024 General Obligation Project Concepts. She reviewed the webpage relevant to this topic and how board members can share this information. She shared different components of the Projects involving areas of public safety, active lifestyles, education, and cultural experiences. She concluded the presentation by answering questions and receiving feedback from board members.

7. Hear, discuss, and approve the selection of the Chair position.

It was moved by Mr. White and seconded by Ms. Allred that the selection of Ms. Hammond as Chair be accepted as written.

Upon tabulation of votes, it showed:

AYES- Ms. Hammond, Ms. Allred, Mr. Campos, Ms. Dobson, Mr. Ellsworth, Ms. Johns, and Mr. White

NAYS- None

8. Hear and discuss the selection of the Vice-Chair position.

Ms. Alicoate provided HRAB with guidance on the selection process for Vice-Chair. She requested board members inform her or Ms. Hammond of their nominations.

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

(9a) Next HRAB meeting will be held on April 24, 2024 at 6pm in the Lower-Level City Council Chambers (57 E 1st St).

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

Ms. Hammond participated in the Regional Unity Walk hosted by the City of Tempe. She also attended the Friends of Transit Conference. She volunteered at an Art in the Park event.

Ms. Allred attended an Asian District Steering Committee meeting and a Mesa Association of Hispanic Citizens meeting. She also attended a Town Hall meeting hosted by the Mesa Police Department and Mesa Public Schools. She volunteered at the Mesa Welcome Center Health Fair and the Mesa Temple Visitors' Center during the Mesa Easter Pageant. She also volunteered at the Phoenix Wushu Nationals events.

Mr. Campos attended the All-America Celebration event. He also attended events hosted by the Mesa Chamber of Commerce and the East Valley Hispanic Chamber of Commerce.

Ms. Dobson attended an Art in the Park event.

Mr. Ellsworth participated in a Ramadan celebration and attended the Mesa Easter Pageant Special Guest Reception event hosted by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Mr. White volunteered and participated in the Regional Unity Walk. He also volunteered at an Art in the Park event. He attended a Town Hall meeting hosted by the Mesa Police Department and Mesa Public Schools. He also participated in the Ride for Love event hosted by the American Legion.

11. Adjournment.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:49 p.m.

Submitted By:



Andrea Alicoate,
Director of Diversity & Engagement