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**CITY OF MESA  
HUMAN RELATIONS ADVISORY BOARD (HRAB)  
August 28, 2024 Minutes**

The Human Relations Advisory Board (HRAB) of the City of Mesa met on August 28, 2024 at 6:00pm in the Lower Level, City Council Chambers, 57 E First St.

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Christiana Hammond, Chair  
Nina Allred  
Sabrina Dobson  
Abram Ellsworth  
Mary Redwing  
Oscar White  
Jane Williams-Cooper

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

William Campos  
Rochelle Johns  
Perla Sandberg  
Yudit Nonthe Sanchez

**STAFF PRESENT**

Andrea Alicoate  
Bianca Amin  
Karely Nunez

**GUESTS**

1. Chair's Call to Order.

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

(1a) Announcement of excused absences.

William Campos, Perla Sandberg and Yudit Nonthe Sanchez were announced as excused absences for this meeting.

(1b) Announcement and introduction of new HRAB members: Mary Redwing, Perla Sandberg and Jane Williams-Cooper

The new members introduced themselves to the Board, and in turn, the Board and staff introduced themselves to the new members.

2. Items from Citizens Present. \*

No citizens wished to speak to the board.

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

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

Upon tabulation of votes, it showed:

AYES – Christiana Hammond, Nina Allred, Sabrina Dobson, Abram Ellsworth, Mary Redwing, Oscar White, Jane Williams-Cooper

NAYS - None

4. Hear and discuss a presentation on the 2023-2025 HRAB Strategic Plan, including the purpose and function of the HRAB, board process, and role.

Ms. Andrea Alicoate, Director of Diversity & Engagement, reviewed the 2023-2025 Human Relations Advisory Board (HRAB) Strategic Plan as a document that provides guidance and direction for the Board. She shared that this Board was created to advise the City Council about racial, religious, ethnic, cultural, disability or other human relations issues affecting Mesa to provide policy recommendations to eliminate discrimination and prejudice and promote mutual understanding in the community. Ms. Alicoate also discussed the Mission, Vision, Goals, and how the Board's impact is measured. She advised that the Board is within the Plan's second year.

Ms. Alicoate expressed appreciation that members of the Board have been very involved in the community, building connections with other participants at every event they attend. She commended the Board for their involvement in the community as it creates positive relationships with residents of Mesa. She concluded her presentation by answering questions and receiving feedback from members of the Board.

5. Hear and discuss an update on current and future HRAB projects and events for FY 24-25, including the Together Mesa initiative and related programs.

Ms. Alicoate provided the Board with upcoming community-based City-sponsored or City-hosted events as a part of the Together Mesa Initiative for the Board to participate, like El Grito festival, Celebrate Mesa, Phoenix Pride Parade, Dia de los Muertos celebrations and Domestic Violence Awareness Night. Ms. Alicoate shared information on the grand opening of the Mesa Family Resource Center on September 26<sup>th</sup>, 2024 in the lower level of the Main Library. Additionally, Ms. Alicoate also invited the Board to the Gratitude Gathering on November 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024 in expression of gratitude to the faith-based organizations and non-profit groups in the area for their efforts in the community. She concluded her presentation by answering questions and receiving feedback from members of the Board.

6. Hear and discuss plan for a strategic planning workshop in the Spring and provide direction to staff for scheduling purposes.

Ms. Alicoate shared on behalf of the Chair and Vice-Chair, she will be coordinating with a third party facilitator to conduct a strategic planning workshop in the Spring 2025. She provided the Board with scheduling options for consideration and input for the planning of logistics. It was discussed that the majority of Board members preferred to have a longer Board meeting in the Spring (March or April 2025) to accommodate the additional time for the planning workshop. Staff will work on details and provide an update for discussion and approval at a future meeting.

7. Scheduling of meetings, future agenda items, and general information.  
(7a) Next HRAB meeting will be held on September 25, 2024 at 6pm in the Lower-Level City Council Chambers (57 E 1<sup>st</sup> St).

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

(8a) Rescheduling of November 27, 2024 Board meeting to December 4, 2024.

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

Upon tabulation of votes, it showed:

AYES – Christiana Hammond, Nina Allred, Sabrina Dobson, Abram Ellsworth, Mary Redwing, Oscar White, Jane Williams-Cooper

NAYS - None

(8b) Cancellation of December 25, 2024 Board meeting

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

Upon tabulation of votes, it showed:

AYES – Christiana Hammond, Nina Allred, Sabrina Dobson, Abram Ellsworth, Mary Redwing, Oscar White, Jane Williams-Cooper

NAYS – None

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

Ms. Dobson shared that she traveled during the recess.

Mr. White attended the Juneteenth Celebration and the July 4<sup>th</sup> Celebration of Freedom.

Ms. Hammond attended a movie showing hosted by ASU in downtown Mesa in May and shared that John McCain Democracy Week has been dedicated in August 2024.

Ms. Allred attended the July 4<sup>th</sup> Celebration of Freedom, collaborated with Compudopt connecting technology access Mesa Immigrant Center in Mesa. She also attended the Women's Innovative Network meetings, the i.d.e.a. Museum Advisory Board meetings, East Valley Safety Fair, Back to School events throughout the summer.

Mr. Ellsworth attended the May ASA Now event for foster families, Shade Tree Academy, Missing Children's Taskforce event, Juneteenth, Interfaith church events, Faith and Family Night, and Purple & Gold Kickoff event.

Ms. Williams-Cooper attended the Leadership Committee meetings in Eastmark, Back to School Drives in her community, and workshops of the Board for the Arizona Assisted Living Association with other NPs.

Ms. Redwing attended the National Down Syndrome Convention and Siblings of Down Syndrome Conference.

10. Adjournment.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:19 p.m.

Submitted By:



Andrea Alicoate,  
Director of Diversity & Engagement