



**CITY OF MESA
HUMAN RELATIONS ADVISORY BOARD (HRAB)
April 26, 2023 Minutes**

The Human Relations Advisory Board (HRAB) of the City of Mesa met on April 26, 2023 at 6:00pm in the Lower Level, City Council Chambers, 57 E First St.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Jared Smith, Chair
Tom Brennan, Vice-Chair
Brett Caldwell
Willie Campos
Margaret Duarte
Christiana Hammond
Rochelle Johns
Oscar White
Ron Williams

MEMBERS ABSENT

Nina Allred

STAFF PRESENT

Andrea Alicoate
Angela Siebrecht

GUESTS

1. Chair's Call to Order.

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

(1a) Announcement of excused absences.

Nina Allred was announced as an excused absence for this meeting.

2. Items from Citizens Present.

No citizens wished to speak to the board.

3. Approval of minutes from the March 22, 2023 HRAB meeting.

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

Upon tabulation of votes, it showed:

AYES- Mr. Brennan, Mr. Caldwell, Mr. Campos, Ms. Duarte, Ms. Hammond, Ms. Johns, Mr. Smith, Mr. White, and Mr. Williams

NAYS- None

4. Hear a presentation and discuss pronouns to demonstrate respect and inclusion for HRAB.

Mr. Caldwell began his presentation by providing the Board members with ground rules to ensure that everyone's perspective is heard and respected in this conversation. He then provided three examples of "use cases" which might be encountered with questions as to the use of identifying pronouns, and examples of how one might respond. Mr. Caldwell additionally provided some information to the Board from the Human Rights Campaign Municipality Equality Index regarding Mesa's scoring utilizing the HRC metrics. Mr. Caldwell concluded by providing Board members with

a list of resources for self-education regarding allyship, pronouns, and how to be an ally to the transgender/gender non-conforming community.

At the conclusion of the discussion, Mr. Smith thanked Mr. Caldwell for leading this series of discussions over the past few meetings. Ms. Alicoate indicated that the initial intention of these conversations was the request of the Board to itemize a vote on an agenda item to allow the option to identify personal gender pronouns on their Board name badges. At the request of the Board Chair, an agenda item will be added for the May meeting for members to vote on this matter.

5. Hear a presentation and discuss the new Together Mesa Arts in the Park program.

Ms. Alicoate began her presentation by providing a brief overview of the Together Mesa diversity initiative which launched in May 2022. Ms. Alicoate introduced the Board to Together Mesa Art in the Park, which is a new program under the Together Mesa initiative with the goal of bringing inclusive arts and community engagement to the diverse neighborhoods within Mesa. Ms. Alicoate provided an overview of the goals of the program as well as the various City of Mesa departments and advisory boards which will assist with the program's execution. She then provided an outline of the program's approach, which will involve an artist commissioned to create a temporary public art display to be showcased at City Hall for approximately one year. The artwork will be based in a community engagement activity which will be completed across six community events in late 2023 and early 2024. Ms. Alicoate provided a projected timeline for the program, which includes the artist selection process, community events, and installation of the final public art display. She also provided the dates for the planned community events, with locations forthcoming.

Following Ms. Alicoate's presentation, the Board asked questions regarding the type of art display that might be created during this program and offered additional comments and support for this new initiative. Mr. Smith thanked Ms. Alicoate for her presentation.

6. Hear a presentation and discuss the City of Mesa as a 2023 All-America City Finalist.

Ms. Alicoate introduced the City of Mesa's nomination as an All-America City Finalist. She provided some background regarding the award and noted that Mesa has not been named an All-America City since 1979. Ms. Alicoate explained to the Board that the purpose of this award is to recognize and honor cities and community organizations that excel in civic innovation and building stronger communities. Ms. Alicoate shared the criteria for receiving the award and informed the Board that this year's theme is "Creating Thriving Communities through Youth Engagement". She then presented the three City of Mesa projects that are being showcased, which include Hackivate Mesa, Project Lit, and the SPARC Youth Programs with Mesa Police and Mesa Fire and Medical.

Ms. Alicoate informed the Board that the City will be presenting their application in Denver, CO from June 9-11, and provided some detail regarding the City's ten-minute presentation. Finally, Ms. Alicoate provided some information regarding send-off events and celebrations once the Mesa delegation returns home. Board members posed questions regarding the makeup of the delegation and the specific items included in Mesa's application and presentation. Mr. Smith thanked Ms. Alicoate for her presentation and offered best wishes for the delegation in June.

7. Discuss the selection of the positions of Chair and Vice-Chair for the 2023-2024 Board year.

Mr. Smith addressed the Board and provided some brief remarks regarding the end of his term with the HRAB, as well as the end of Mr. Brennan's term. He explained that this will leave the positions of Chair and Vice-Chair open for nomination and selection by the Board. Ms. Alicoate explained that typically, the person in the Vice-Chair position will move into the Chair role after one year, allowing the individual serving as Vice-Chair a chance to learn the position before fully moving into a leadership role. However, since both the Vice-Chair and Chair will be leaving the Board at the end of this year, both positions will need to be filled. Given the need for both positions to be filled, Mr. Smith expressed his intention to nominate Mr. Williams for the position of Chair at the next HRAB meeting for one year, with the hopes that Mr. Williams will be able to mentor and prepare the individual who accepts the Vice-Chair role.

Ms. Alicoate encouraged Board members to consider if they would be interested in the Vice-Chair role and to communicate with Mr. Smith and staff liaisons if so. Ms. Alicoate reminded the Board that these positions will be formally chosen at the May HRAB meeting.

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

(8a) Next HRAB meeting will be held on May 24, 2023, at 6pm in the Lower-Level City Council Chambers (57 E 1st St).

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

Mr. Campos reported that he attended a "Coffee with the Mayor" event at a local YMCA, and the ribbon cutting ceremony for Just Love Coffee Shop with the Mesa Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Caldwell reported that he attended the Rainbows Festival in Phoenix.

Mr. White reported that he has been attending various entertainment events in downtown Mesa, and noted for the Board that he has recently published a book on management strategies, which is available for purchase on Amazon.

Ms. Hammond reported that she attended the Rainbows Festival as well and has recently completed her first 5K.

Mr. Williams reported that he attended a pre-reception for the Mesa Easter Pageant, as well as a banquet for A New Leaf Center. He attended a ribbon cutting at Mountain View High School for their new art center and a board meeting for Visit Mesa. Additionally, he attended meetings of the Mesa Regional Foundation and the Arizona MLK Committee and attended the Mesa Public Schools Foundation gala.

Mr. Smith reported that he attended a meeting of the Equity Advisory Council for Mesa Public Schools.

10. Adjournment.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:09PM.

*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,
Diversity & Special Projects Manager