
**CITY OF MESA
HUMAN RELATIONS ADVISORY BOARD (HRAB)
April 27, 2022 Minutes**

The Human Relations Advisory Board (HRAB) of the City of Mesa met on April 27, 2022 at 6:00pm in the Lower Level, City Council Chambers, 57 E First St.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Ron Williams - Chair
Tom Brennan
Willie Campos
Margaret Duarte
Christiana Hammond
Rochelle Johns
Bill McAllister
Jared Smith- Vice Chair

MEMBERS ABSENT

Joseph Holmes
Amy-Lyn Faatoafe
Yudidt Nonthe-Sanchez

STAFF PRESENT

Andrea Alicoate
Susan Cannady

GUESTS

Eric Jenkins

1. Chair's Call to Order.

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

Announcement of excused absences.

Mr. Holmes and Ms. Faatoafe were announced as excused absences.

2. Items from Citizens Present.

No citizens wished to speak to the board.

3. Approval of minutes from the March 23, 2022 HRAB meeting.

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

Upon tabulation of votes, it showed:

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

NAYS- None

4. Hear and discuss a presentation from Streets of Joy.

Eric Jenkins, Chairman and CEO of Streets of Joy, presented on the organization and their programs. First, Mr. Jenkins described the Primary Transitional Program. Participants must commit to a minimum of 6-months working in the program, maintain sobriety, attend structured meetings, adhere to a case managed recovery plan, adhere to written house rules among others. This program is usually reserved for active or short-term clean drug users.

The next is the Second Chance Program for those released from a correction facility. Participants must be drug free upon entering, 30-day commitment to ministry, and encouraged to find a job and save funds. Once they complete that program, they can transition to the ¾ Housing Community. Mr. Jenkins explained that this program is a traditional halfway house with a little more support such as food, job placement, financial aid during transition.

Mr. Jenkins explained that Streets of Joy, utilizing a self-sustaining model. They work closely with local businesses to hire difficult to place applicants in seasonal employment, support applicants with transportation and start-up incidentals, and provide opportunity for applicants to prove capabilities, prior to permanent hiring. Mr. Williams thanked Mr. Jenkins his work in the community and for his presentation to the board.

5. Hear and discuss an update on the Regional Unity Walk planning committee.

Mr. Smith provided an update from the Regional Unity Walk planning committee hosted by the City of Chandler. Mr. Smith explained that considerations for other city locations for the walk were discussed, including the City of Buckeye, however the majority vote was to keep it centralized at Tempe. The anticipated date of the walk will be January 21, 2023.

6. Hear and discuss a presentation on the Together Mesa initiative and update to the Community Learning Series.

Ms. Alicoate shared that the City will be launching a new diversity initiative called Together Mesa that will showcase the voices that make up our community, fostering the awareness and understanding that strengthens us as a community. Together Mesa will include visual interests, social media and video stories that reflect our community. Together Mesa also includes other strategies to advance the equity, inclusion and accessibility to enhance City services to the community as well engagement efforts with our workforce. Together Mesa will also be the platform to support the board's ongoing Community Learning Series.

Ms. Alicoate advised that the Chair and Vice-Chair will be filming some promotional reel to help launch the campaign. Ms. Alicoate also stated that she will be presenting Together Mesa and the Community Learning Series to the City Council on May 19, 2022.

7. Hear and discuss announcement of new collaborative project for a cultural art experience in parks.

Ms. Alicoate gave a very broad overview of an idea for a cultural art walk experience to be located in City parks. Ms. Alicoate stated that she would like to initiate a think tank between the Human Relations Advisory Board and Museum and Cultural Advisory Board members to help further develop the idea. Ms. Alicoate stated that she would convene a meeting over the summer and invited those interested to indicate to her to be included.

8. Discuss the selection of the positions of Chair and Vice-Chair for 2022-2023 Board year.

Mr. Williams advised that the role of Chair and Vice-Chair fill a 2-year term. Historically, those serving in the role of Vice Chair are nominated for Chair and then there is a new Vice-Chair who may have interest in learning the ropes to be Chair. Next month in May the board will be tasked to select new Chair/ Vice-Chair to begin in August.

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

(9a) Next HRAB meeting will be held on May 25, 2022 at 6pm in the Lower-Level Council Chambers (57 E 1st St).

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

Mr. McAllister reported that he attended the AZ Housing Coalition Conference at Mesa Convention Center supporting housing and homelessness. Mr. Smith announced that he attended two Mesa Public Schools Equity Council Advisory Meetings.

Mr. Williams highlighted several events he participated in: March 24th -AZ MLK Committee meeting; March 27th -Visit Mesa Board meeting; April 4th- Spectrum Beer Launch at 12 West Brewery; April 7th -MPD Community Survey Meeting; April 12th -Visit Mesa Board meeting, MPD African American Advisory Meeting; April 14th -Mesa Public Schools Foundation Dinner; April 21st- AZ MLK Committee meeting; April 23rd -Mesa United Way 100-year celebration event.

11. Adjournment.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:05PM

***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