

CITY OF MESA
HUMAN RELATIONS ADVISORY BOARD (HRAB)
May 20, 2015 Minutes

The Human Relations Advisory Board (HRAB) of the City of Mesa met on May 20th, 2015,
at 6:00pm in the Lower Level, City Council Chambers, 57 E. First Street.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mark Tompert, Vice Chair
Cheryl Anderson
Colleen Byron
Denise Heap
Frank Johnson
Nadia Khalighi
Tony Liuzzo
Cliff Moon
Lu Ann Schmidt

MEMBERS ABSENT

Karen Frias-Long
Talmage Pearce

STAFF PRESENT

Michael Dvorak
Bethany Freeland
Ruth Giese
Ray Villa

GUESTS

Maggie Gordon
Durrie Parks

1. Chair's Call to Order.

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

- Discuss and vote on the selection of the position of Vice Chair for the remainder of the 2014/2015.

The board discussed the possibility of naming a back- up Vice Chair to Mr. Tompert in the event that he is unable to remain at his post for the remainder of the meeting. This was deemed unnecessary and that a vote would take place only in the event that Mr. Tompert would need to leave for any reason.

2. Items from Citizens Present.*

There were no citizens who requested to speak to the board.

3. Approval of minutes from the April 22nd, 2015 meeting.

A motion was made by Dr. Liuzzo to approve the April 22nd, 2015 meeting minutes and Dr. Byron seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

4. Discuss and take action on Mesa Police Department Report.

- Report on police related incidents and activities.

Ms. Heap discussed with Mr. Villa, Police Community Partner Coordinator, the incident that happened at the Nile Theater two months ago. This was discussed in the meeting last month as well. Ms. Heap was following up regarding her conversations with the festival executive director and the fact that no contact has been made to her by the Mesa Police Department (MPD). Mr. Villa said that he will rectify the situation as soon as possible. Ms. Heap also queried as to whether or not we could offer the youth at the Nile Theater some counselling on how to appropriately handle group conflicts. Mr. Villa stated that he would find out.

- Report on arrest totals between 2011– 2014 by race.

Mr. Villa explained the breakdown of arrests between Black, White, Asian, Native American, and other race individuals. He stated that there was no great disparity in the numbers between any of the categories. Ms. Heap expressed concern that the category listed as "White" includes those individuals of Hispanic descent. She asked if it would be possible for Mr. Villa to get information to the board with the categories broken

down further. He stated that he would. Mr. Moon also requested to have information based on gender and age range. Mr. Villa said that he could do that as well.

- Updates and scheduling of upcoming Police Advisory Board meetings.

Michael Dvorak discussed the Police Explorer meeting which was held and that applications for the group were taken at that time. This meeting involves getting the youth of the city involved and interested in all aspects of Law Enforcement. He said that it usually has a good turn out and that the kids involved benefit greatly from their experiences. He also discussed the new Hoarding Taskforce that has been initiated. The board suggested to Mr. Dvorak that a clinical help aspect be incorporated into the new taskforce. Hoarding is not a one-time help situation. It now carries a clinically billable diagnosis code and should therefore be treated as a psychological issue. Mr. Dvorak stated that this was an excellent idea. Mr. Dvorak also mentioned the Mesa Senior Advisory Board also known as the Upbeat Agers group.

5. Hear, discuss and take on Diversity Administrator's update on Title VI coordination.

Ms. Giese discussed the Title VI training that the Diversity Office attended from the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) in February on how to better accomplish the requirements set forth by the Title VI directives. She discussed the Title VI liaison group that has been formed. This group consists of one representative from each department at the City of Mesa who has each undergone an initial training session. In March, each representative submitted an Acknowledgement and Assessment form regarding their specific department and how it relates to Title VI. Later this month the Diversity staff will meet with these departments one on one in order to meet their individual needs in regard to Title VI. A Title VI notification has been added to the new mesaaz.gov website and more will be added as the initiative moves forward including complaint and procedure forms. Also, the implementation plan will be added. Staff anticipates our first annual review and audit with ADOT, who is monitoring Title VI compliance statewide, to be around an August or September time frame. When this review happens, staff will also review goals for the upcoming year.

6. Hear, discuss and take action on items presented by the Youth Diversity Education Team Sub-Committee.

A motion was made by Ms. Heap to defer discussion regarding the Youth Diversity Education Team Sub-Committee and its topics of interest due to the cancellation of the last two meetings. Ms. Khalighi seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

7. Hear, discuss and take action on items presented by the Disabilities Action Team Sub-Committee.

- Hear, discuss, and take action on periodic update from transportation services for people with disabilities. This includes reviewing a quarterly report and annual report on East Valley Dial-A-Ride.

Ms. Anderson summarized the presentation given to the DAT board by Jodi Sorrell, Transit Services Director, regarding more easily accessible transportation for those with disabilities. Mesa is premier in their Dial-A-Ride program beating out other Arizona cities by a great deal. The main discussion was the need for a more efficient program when riders have to switch vehicles in Phoenix or vice versa. Also, the rates of riders has fallen off significantly over the last eighteen months and ADOT is looking into reasons that that might be.

- Discuss and consider the presentation from Mesa Police Department on emergency care for citizens with mental health needs.

Ms. Anderson summarized the presentation given to the DAT board by Officer Amanda Stamps regarding the Crisis Intervention Team for mental health services through the MPD. This presentation focused on the fact that each call requires at least two officers and a minimum of two hours for transport. It also highlighted the fact that more officers need training in the correct way to handle these types of calls. The current process is long in both time and distance and puts stress on a person who is already in crisis. An East Valley recovery center would result in significantly lowered PD man hours and require only one officer transport instead of two. Also, there are no displacement issues for the client considering they are much

closer to their home once treatment and assessment have been received. The board agreed that this information was vital to the development of this initiative.

- Provide an update on the second town hall meeting to educate the community on mental health and substance abuse issues.

Ms. Anderson relayed to the board the information discussed with the DAT and Bill Mcallister who works for Marc Community Resources Inc. He helped brainstorm ways to make the second town hall meeting an interest for local business owners to hire those with disabilities. They discussed holding an actual job fair and inviting business who already hire people with disabilities to come and share their positive experiences with business that may be wary. Mr. Mcallister is going to get in touch with the personnel that handle the job fairs at the Marc Center and share their list of contacts with the board.

- Provide an update on the feasibility of creating a Psychiatric Recovery Center in the East Valley.

The board felt that this item has garnered a lot of attention and the need has been shown to be great. A motion was made by Ms. Heap to move this agenda item to the full board in the coming meeting season. Dr. Byron seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

- Provide an update on the ways to evaluate the adequacy of services and programs for people with disabilities and the implementation of ADA.

It was decided by the board that this agenda item needs more specific points in order to garner meaningful discussion and that they will address what those items are at the Strategic Retreat in August. Ms. Schmidt also relayed to the board her concern over hazardous parking not being enforced in the city. Often times, cars are parked well over their partitions or curbs and it is dangerous for someone to go around and into the street in order to avoid them.

8. Discuss and vote on the selection of the position of Chair and Vice Chair for 2015/2016 term.

A motion was made by Ms. Anderson to elect Ms. Heap as the Committee Chair for 2015/2016. Mr. Johnson seconded. The motion carried unanimously. Another motion was made by Ms. Anderson to elect Dr. Byron as the Committee Vice Chair for 2015/2016. Dr. Liuzzo seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

9. Hear and discuss conferences and/or meetings.

Ms. Schmidt and Ms. Khalighi detailed the Mayor's luncheon they attended with the goal of getting a better view of the diversity of Mesa. The luncheon focused on smaller discussion groups and the junior youth of the city.

10. Discuss and take action on scheduling of meetings, future agenda items, and general information.

- Strategic Retreat will be on Sat., August 22nd, 2015 from 8am-12pm at 640 N. Mesa Dr.

11. Adjournment.

***Members of the audience may address the Board on any item. State Statute prohibits the Human Relations Advisory Board from discussing an item that is not on the agenda.**

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