

**CITY OF MESA**  
**HUMAN RELATIONS ADVISORY BOARD (HRAB)**  
**August 22, 2015 MINUTES**

The Human Relations Advisory Board (HRAB) of the City of Mesa met on August 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2015,  
at 9:00am in the Mesa Utility Building Community Room, 640 N. Mesa Dr.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Denise Heap, Chair  
Cheryl Anderson, Vice  
Chair  
Colleen Byron  
Robert Martinez  
Cliff Moon  
LuAnn Schmidt  
Mark Tompert

MEMBERS ABSENT

Karen Frias-Long  
Frank Johnson  
Nadia Khalighi  
Talmage Pearce

STAFF PRESENT

Bethany Freeland  
Ruth Giese  
Kelly Gregan  
Jim Smith

GUESTS

Aspyn Adams  
Janessa Chastain  
Perry Gill  
Marissa Krings  
Karen Kurtz  
Debra Peevey  
Johnny Martin  
Jacob Stanek  
Jenny Ung

1. Chair's Call to Order.

Ms. Heap called the meeting to order at 9:00am.

- Introduction and announcement of new board member, Robert Martinez.

The board introduced themselves to, Mr. Martinez. In return, Mr. Martinez introduced himself to the board.

- Introduction of City Attorney, Jim Smith.

The board introduced themselves to, Mr. Smith. In return, Mr. Smith introduced himself to the board.

2. Items from Citizens Present.\*

Johnny Martin, from ASU's Interfaith Organization, spoke to the Board regarding the importance of constituting a non-discrimination ordinance. Janessa Chastain, the Senior Pastor at Grace United Methodist Church, also spoke to the Board in favor of competitive Arizona and the non-discrimination ordinance. Debra Peevey, the Faith Director of One Community, spoke to the Board as well. Ms. Peevey was also in favor of a non-discrimination ordinance. Mr. Moon requested that we retain the contact information of those who spoke to the Board.

3. Approval of minutes from the May 20th, 2015 board meeting.

A motion was made by Ms. Schmidt to approve the May 20th, 2015 minutes and Ms. Heap seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

4. Elect a board member to the position of Vice-Chair for FY 2015-16.

Dr. Byron motioned to elect Ms. Anderson to the position of Vice-Chair and Mr. Tompert seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

5. Hear, discuss, and take action on items presented by the subcommittee, Youth Diversity Education Team.

Ms. Giese updated the Board that in June, the YDET committee had discussed doing a group project for Make a Difference Day, possible meeting with Dr. Cowan with Mesa Public Schools about helping with Diversity

education, and the Youth Leadership Conference. Mr. Moon says that he will be meeting with a few people after the Multicultural Education Conference on September 12, 2015 and that he will be able to better update the Board after those discussions take place. Mr. Moon stated that the MLK Committee could possibly meet with the Board in a few months.

6. Hear, discuss, and take action on items presented by the Subcommittee, Disabilities Action Team.

Ms. Anderson updated the Board on continuing the Town Hall Meetings by slowing down the process in order to be thorough and have a good turnout at the next one. She also informed the Board on the item of a possible Mental Health Recovery Center in the East Valley. Ms. Freeland informed the Board that she is in the process of compiling all of the information that they have received thus far, into a coherent report.

7. Review, discuss, and provide direction on the Strategic Plan.

Ms. Kurtz led the Board in updating the Strategic Plan. The Board members discussed their previous year's goals and accomplishments.

A copy of the approved FY 2015-17 Strategic Plan, including the previous year's goals and accomplishments will be available on the HRAB web page.

8. Hear, discuss, and create board work plan for 2015-17.

The Board identified new goals and standing activities for their FY 2015-17 Work Plan. The following subcommittees and task forces were established:

- Organize Subcommittees:

Disabilities Action Team- Cheryl Anderson, Colleen Byron, Denise Heap, LuAnn Schmidt, and Mark Tompert.

Diversity and Inclusion Report Action Team- Colleen Byron, Denise Heap, and LuAnn Schmidt.

Youth Diversity Education Team- Denise Heap, Frank Johnson, Nadia Khalighi, Robert Martinez, Cliff Moon, and Talmage Pearce

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

- Next meeting will be held on September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2015 at 6pm.

10. Take a group photo for the website.

11. Adjournment.

Submitted By:



Ruth Giese,  
Diversity Program Administrator