
**CITY OF MESA
HUMAN RELATIONS ADVISORY BOARD (HRAB)
February 28, 2018 Minutes**

The Human Relations Advisory Board (HRAB) of the City of Mesa met on February 28, 2018
at 6:00pm in the Upper Level City Council Chambers at 57 E 1st St.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Cliff Moon- Chair
Colleen Byron- Vice-Chair
Alvaro Gonzalez
Nadia Khalighi
Silvia Stanford
Mark Tompert
Keola Tweedy
Louis Wade

MEMBERS ABSENT

Joseph Holmes
Cassandra Sampson

STAFF PRESENT

Bethany Freeland
Ruth Giese
Ray Villa

GUESTS

1. Chair's Call to Order'

Dr. Moon called the meeting to order at 6:00pm. Dr. Moon introduced new HRAB member Alvaro Gonzalez, and each Board member gave a brief introduction of themselves.

2. Items from Citizens Present. *

There were no citizens present who wished to speak to the Board.

3. Approval of minutes from the January 24, 2018 Board meeting.

Mr. Tompert made a motion to approve the minutes with the following corrections:

Item 13d:

"There will be a Hula event at the Fountain Hills Community Center on February 3, 2018."

"There will also be a Pan Asian Senior and Family Caregiver Forum on February 9, 2018 at the Arizona Community Foundation in Phoenix."

"On February 24 & 25 2018 the Arizona Matsuri Festival will be held."

Item 14:

"1-13-18 Lau Kanaka No Hawaii LKNH (Hawaiian Civic Club of AZ) General Meeting in Phoenix with Guest Albert Lin."

"1-18-18 District 4 Poetry Night at Jarrod's Coffee, Tea & Gallery."

Dr. Byron seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

4. Discuss and make recommendations on Mesa Police Department (MPD) Monthly Community Engagement Report.

Mr. Villa gave a brief introduction of himself for Mr. Gonzalez.

- (4a) Updates on Diversity related police incidents and activities.

Mr. Villa talked about the February African American Forum Meeting that had 30 individuals in attendance, 10 of which were students. At the meeting, Mr. Villa asked that each person come to the next meeting with their ideas on how to better outreach to the youth community. Community Engagement is always a focus of interest for the MPD.

Mr. Villa talked about the recent PD incident where an elderly woman was apprehended and thrown to the ground. Chief Batista invited several individuals to a meeting to view the incident and assess what the situation was. The call was responding to a man living with his grandmother and was threatening suicide. PD arrived on the scene and the grandmother exited the house. The officers stayed behind their vehicles and as the grandmother turned to go back into the residence an officer grabbed her, put her down on the ground and handcuffed her. It was determined that there were other options in the situation and Chief Batista decided to create a training environment to better handle incidents such as this one.

Ms. Stanford recently went on a ride-a-long with MPD and was paired with a veteran officer. She encountered a call that was being handled by two officers who were new to the force. She asked the veteran officer why these individuals would not be paired with more seasoned officers. Mr. Villa stated that pairing rookie officers with veteran officers is not always possible due to staffing constraints. He also said that because of this, officer training really focuses on taking a minute to assess the threat level of a situation before acting.

- (4b) Updates on scheduling of upcoming Police Advisory Board meeting.

- 3-7-18 Meet and Greet at the Alston House from 6- 7:30PM for the Escobedo Neighborhood
- 3-10-18 Aspire Academy for Girls Begins
- 3-13-18 Asian Advisory Board Meeting at the Fiesta Substation at 6PM to discuss holding an event with the Asian community at Mekong Plaza. Ms. Tweedy added that at the January 2018 meeting the Board decided to implement meeting themes with the March 2018 meeting being Pacific Islanders. She has reached out to the executive team of LKNH to invite them to attend the meeting and perhaps supply a guest speaker. She stated that due to the fact that this meeting will be after the Arizona Aloha Festival, it might be a good opportunity for a Question and Answer (Q&A) session.

- 3-24-18 Outreach Event at Los Altos Ranch Market from 10- 2PM to provide information on City services and introduce Mesa en Espanol to the Hispanic Community

(4b-1) Updates on a meeting of the LGBTQ (Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender and Questioning) Community Forum.

Dr. Moon asked when this meeting might be taking place and Mr. Villa said there hasn't been anything set up yet. Officer Amanda Stamps of the MPD who is part of the Crisis Response team will be leading this group. Dr. Byron asked if the upcoming meeting would be a Gay Straight Alliance (GSA) meeting or a community forum meeting. Mr. Villa stated that it would be a community forum meeting.

5. Discuss and take action on meeting with various educational institutions to assess strides being made to address diversity issues within schools.

Dr. Moon stated that he has not yet developed the letter of invitation to send to the schools, but that he would create one soon.

6. Discuss and take action on meeting with LGBTQ community members to build relationships for future partnerships.

Dr. Moon felt that this item can best be addressed when MPD schedules the meeting of their LGBTQ Community Forum. Dr. Byron said that she would agree that it makes sense to wait to see how it develops, but if there is no movement soon then the Board should discuss ideas on how to move forward. Ms. Giese asked if this item aimed to develop relationships with existing organizations within this community. Dr. Byron said yes and it makes sense to make connections with the individuals of this community through established groups.

7. Discuss and take action on the development of community fairs and events such as, but not limited to, a Police and Community Coming Together Fair, Women's Empowerment Event, and a Youth Peace Building Summit (YPBS).

Dr. Moon informed the Board that the Women's Empowerment Summit is scheduled to take place on Saturday, March 10, 2018 at 12:30PM at Mesa Community College. The next planning meeting for this event will occur on Monday, March 5, 2018 and Dr. Moon, Dr. Byron, and Ms. Freeland will be in attendance. The keynote speaker will be Dr. Eva Shivers and there will be multiple panel discussions and presenters. Ms. Freeland urged Board members to come volunteer to help at the event.

Dr. Moon stated that the YPBS is still scheduled to take place on Saturday, April 14, 2018 at Benedictine University. There will be a planning meeting directly following tonight's Board meeting. Ms. Khalighi added that everything is currently on track. The initial invitation letter to the school counselors will be sent shortly. Mr. Gonzalez queried what the event is about. Ms. Khalighi

informed him that the event aims to teach ideas of peace building to junior high students through graduate students. This will be the third year the event has been held.

8. Discuss recommendations to Mayor Giles regarding diversity strategies and recommendations for the City.

Ms. Freeland stated that she just wanted each Board member to be provided a copy of the submitted recommendations and to note that each one is accompanied by a possible measurable metric. Ms. Stanford asked what the term “reach” refers to. Ms. Freeland said that “reach” is the number of individuals that encounters a set of information. This is mostly used in reference to digital media. Mr. Tompert added that in regards to the Non-Discrimination Ordinance in item 7 that that a proposal has been submitted for a State wide ordinance.

9. Discuss recent news regarding Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA).

Ms. Freeland provided a copy of the letter to each Board member and delivered the official letter to each to sign. The official copy will be delivered to the Mayor’s Office.

10. Scheduling of meetings, future agenda items, general information, and Board attendees at upcoming meetings and events including those set forth below.

(10a) Next Board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 28, 2018 at 6PM in the Lower Level City Council Chambers (57 E 1st St).

(10b) Indie Lens Pop-Up! Film Screening of *Dolores* to be held on Thursday, March 8, 2018 at 7PM at Benedictine University Mesa (225 E Main St).

(10c) Women’s Empowerment Summit being held on Saturday, March 10, 2018 from 8AM to 4PM at Mesa Community College (1833 W Southern Ave).

(10d) 2018 Pride Parade to be held on Sunday, April 8, 2018 beginning at 3rd St and Thomas. Parade step off begins at 10AM.

(10e) Indie Lens Pop-Up! film screening of Look & See: Wendell Berry’s Kentucky to be held on Thursday, April 12, 2018 at 7PM at Benedictine University Mesa (225 E Main st).

(10f) Youth Peace Building Summit to be held on Saturday, April 14, 2018 from 8AM to 4PM at Benedictine University Mesa (225 E Main St).

(10g) Celebrate Mesa is being held on Saturday, April 14, 2018 from 10AM to 2PM at Pioneer Park (526 E Main St).

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

Ms. Tweedy:

- 1-27-18 Lau Kanaka No Hawaii (LKNH) Hawaiian Civic Club (HCC) or Arizona Holoku Inauguration Ball at the Mesa Country Club with guest Albert Lin

- 1-28-18 "Understanding What Happened" event at Freestone Park in Gilbert
- 2-8-18 Indie Lens Pop-Up! film screening of "*Tell Them We Are Rising: The Story of Historically Black Colleges and Universities*" at Benedictine University Mesa
- 2-13-18 Mesa Police Department's Asian Community Advisory Board (ACAB) meeting at the Fiesta Substation. This was a joint meeting with the Arizona Asian American Association (AAAA) that included a potluck and guest speaker.
- 2-23-18 Attended day 2 of a 5-day event for RVing Women (RVW) AZ Chapter rally at Lost Dutchman State Park in Apache Junction
- 2-24-18 Lau Kanaka No Hawaii (LKNH) Hawaiian Civic Club of Arizona general meeting in Glendale

Ms. Tweedy has also been involved with the Fresh Start Women's Foundation in Phoenix. She shared the group's website with the Board: www.freshstartwomen.org

Dr. Moon shared that he attended the Defamation Experience and that they mentioned possibly holding an event in Arizona. He also attended the Annual Regional Unity Walk and commented that the event was well put together and well attended.

Mr. Tompert reminded the Board that they are still waiting on information from the Diversity office regarding Title VI and ADA reports. Ms. Stanford also asked about the statistics regarding the number of African American individuals employed with the City. Ms. Freeland stated that she would follow-up on that item.

12. Adjournment.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:19PM.

***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.**

The City of Mesa is committed to making its public meetings accessible. For accommodations, translation, or additional information, please contact the City of Mesa Diversity Office at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting at (480) 644-5432 or AzRelay 7-1-1 for those who are deaf or hard of hearing.

Si necesita asistencia o traducción en español, favor de llamar al menos 48 horas antes de la reunión al 480-644-2767.