
**CITY OF MESA
HUMAN RELATIONS ADVISORY BOARD (HRAB)
August 22, 2018 Minutes**

The Human Relations Advisory Board (HRAB) of the City of Mesa met on August 22, 2018
at 6:00pm in the Lower Level City Council Chambers at 57 E 1st St.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Cliff Moon- Chair
Colleen Byron- Vice Chair
Amy-Lyn Faatoafe
Alvaro Gonzalez
Joseph Holmes
Nadia Khalighi
Mark Tompert
Louis Wade
Ron Williams

MEMBERS ABSENT

Silvia Stanford

STAFF PRESENT

Andrea Alicoate
James Duty
Bethany Freeland
Ruth Giese

GUESTS

1. Chair's Call to Order.

Dr. Moon called the meeting to order at 6:01pm.

(1a) Announcement of excused absences.

(1b) Introduction/dismissal of Board members.

New Board members, standing Board members, and the Diversity Office administrative staff introduced themselves to each other.

Dr. Moon dismissed and thanked her for her service to the Board.

2. Items from Citizens Present. *

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

3. Approval of minutes from the May 23, 2018 Board meeting.

It was moved by Dr. Byron, seconded by Mr. Tompert that the above-mentioned minutes be accepted as written.

Upon tabulation of votes, it showed:

AYES- Dr. Moon, Dr. Byron, Ms. Faatoafe, Mr. Gonzalez, Mr. Holmes, Ms. Khalighi, Mr. Tompert, Mr. Wade

NAYS- None

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

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

In Mr. Ray Villa's absence, the Board discussed requesting details of a specific police-related incidences.

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

Dr. Moon elected to skip this item due to Mr. Villa's absence.

(4b-1) Updates on a meeting of the LGBTQ Community Forum.

Dr. Moon discussed two meetings he conducted at Mesa Community College (MCC) with representatives of MCC and the Mesa Police Department (MPD). In the meeting, the representatives decided to meet with 15-25 adult individuals regarding LGBTQ needs and concerns in the community. There will be a series of meeting sessions to be conducted regularly over a period of 6-12 months, and to be facilitated by LGBTQ community interest groups such as GLSEN and One Community. The first such community meeting is projected to be September 26, 2018, 6-7pm at MCC in the Kirk Student Center. The predetermined goals include gaining a better understanding of LGBTQ life in the City of Mesa, housing services to the LGBTQ community, identifying possible policy change opportunities, and relaying and presenting forum findings to City Council, MPD, HRAB, and to credible advocacy organizations. Dr. Moon also explained three objectives of the forum: discuss and document how individuals within the LGBTQ community define their life aspirations and determine how to pursue them; discuss and document the shared experiences, events, and relationships the LGBTQ community perceive as critical to their success in the greater community; and discuss and document the challenges that may be unique to the LGBTQ community, how they address those challenges, and how they perceive MPD or the City as helping or hindering them. Dr. Moon provided the Board with a handout listing 12 benefits and 17 challenges to having an LGBTQ forum. Dr. Moon explained that the next meeting would be August 29th at MCC's Kirk Student Center.

Dr. Byron asked about the scheduling conflict between HRAB meetings and the LGBTQ Community Forum meetings, and Dr. Moon advised he would raise that issue at the next meeting.

Mr. Gonzalez raised the same concern with the scheduling issue, and also expressed concern about LGBTQ youth not being included in the forum. Dr. Moon advised he would raise that issue at the next planning meeting, and proposed possibly involving school administrative staff and leadership in the forum to address the concern.

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

Dr. Moon advised he had reached out to the superintendent of Mesa Public Schools (MPS) for a meeting to discuss MPS's programs and activities with regard to various human relations. A meeting has been set up for September 5th at 2pm at 63 E Main St., Mesa, AZ.

Ms. Giese then addressed the Board, proposing that both HRAB and MPS focus on ways to collaborate with regard to human relations and related programs for youth.

6. Create a recommendation to Mayor and Council on providing City services to individuals with mental health and substance abuse issues.

Mr. Tompart discussed presentations made to subcommittees and the full Board by the Mesa Fire Department (MFD) and MPD regarding grants received for the purpose of assisting with mental health-related calls for service. Mr. Tompart expressed disappointment in hearing that the funds were received for such a purpose but that the program has been discontinued and would like more information about the situation. Ms. Freeland and Ms. Alicoate responded that they would reach out to MFD and ask for a representative to address the Board or statement regarding this issue to provide at a future Board meeting.

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 Youth Peace Building Summit.

No immediately upcoming fairs or events to discuss at this time. However, the Board did engage in some preliminary discussion for future events.

8. Review 2017-2019 Strategic Plan to assess priorities for 2018/19 Board year.

The Board decided to move this discussion to the next Board meeting.

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

The Board discussed the scheduling conflict between the LGBTQ community forum meeting and the next Board meeting in September. Dr. Byron offered to lead the next Board meeting to allow Dr. Moon the opportunity to attend the LGBTQ community forum meeting, and Dr. Moon accepted.

- (9a) Next Board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 26, 2018 at 6PM in the Lower Level City Council Chambers (57 E 1st St).

- September 26, 2018 Agenda: Hear presentation on City of Mesa Transit updates.
- September 26, 2018 Agenda: Hear presentation on Mesa City Courts updates.

- (9b) Save the Date: Regional Human Relations Commission meeting the evening of Thursday, September 13, 2018 from 5:00PM to 7:30PM at Western Spirit: Scottsdale Museum of the West (3830 N Marshall Way).

- (9c) 7th Annual AZ Multicultural Education Conference: Self-Critical Analysis to be held on Saturday, September 22, 2018 from 8:00AM to 4:00PM at Mesa Community College (1833 W Southern Ave).
- (9d) Celebrate Mesa will be held on October 20, 2018 from 5:00PM to 9:00PM at the Red Mountain Soccer Complex (905 N Sunvalley Blvd).

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

There were no reports on conferences or meetings presented by members of the Board. However, Dr. Byron discussed her intention to put on several upcoming events celebrating the anniversary of the Stonewall Riots in 2019. She also requested slots be designated on future Board meeting agendas for visits and presentations from regional Human Rights Campaign (HRC) organizations in preparation and promotion of these events. Dr. Byron expressed her intention to partner with as many interested parties and groups for this purpose, and also invited other Board members to participate as well. Ms. Alicoate asked Dr. Byron for guidance on how she would like it to be added to the agenda. Dr. Byron responded that she provide that at a later time.

Ms. Khalighi reminded the Board of her Zen Nights event approaching on Friday, August 31st.

11. Adjournment.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:07PM.

***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.