
**CITY OF MESA
HUMAN RELATIONS ADVISORY BOARD (HRAB)
August 25, 2021 Minutes**

The Human Relations Advisory Board (HRAB) of the City of Mesa met on August 25, 2021.
at 6:00pm via ZOOM.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Ron Williams- Chair
Tom Brennan
William Campos
Margaret Duarte
Amy-Lyn Faatoafe
Joseph Holmes
Christiana Hammond
Bill McAllister
Yudit Nonthe Sanchez

MEMBERS ABSENT

Jared Smith- Vice Chair

STAFF PRESENT

Andrea Alicoate
Nancy Sorensen
Antonia Mejia

GUESTS

Councilmember
David Luna
Louis Wade

1. Chair's Call to Order.

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

(1a) Announcement of excused absences.

Mr. Smith was announced as an excused absence.

(1b) Announcement and introduction of new HRAB members, Christiana Hammond and Yudit Nonthe Sanchez.

Ms. Hammond and Ms. Nonthe Sanchez introduced themselves to the board, and in turn the board introduced themselves to the new members.

(1c) Announcement of resignation of HRAB member, Louis Wade.

Staff and board members recognized and thanked Mr. Wade for his many years of service on HRAB.

2. Opening remarks from Councilmember David Luna.

Councilmember Luna provided a welcome and thanked the Board for the important work that they do. Councilmember Luna wants to encourage the community to promote awareness and inclusivity throughout the City of Mesa and acknowledged that HRAB work aids in this mission. Councilmember Luna gave the Board a voice of support, shared that he had once served on the same board and encouraged the members to continue promoting their work.

3. Items from Citizens Present.

No citizens wished to speak to the board.

4. Approval of minutes from the May 19, 2021 HRAB meeting.

It was moved by Mr. McAllister, seconded by Ms. Faatoafe 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. Faatoafe, Mr. Holmes, Ms. Hammond, Mr. McAllister, and Ms. Nonthe Sanchez.

NAYS- None

5. Hear and discuss presentation from the City Attorney's Office on the purpose and function of the HRAB, Arizona Open Meeting Law, and conflict of interest.

Ms. Sorensen, City Attorney, was present to give a presentation on the role of the HRAB and how its member roles fit in the overall mission of the City of Mesa. The City Charter gave the ability to create the HRAB in accordance with Mesa City Code Title 2 Chapter 12. Ms. Sorensen informed that the Board is considered a public body that falls under Open Meeting Law and proceeded to elaborate on the regulations. She then made a transition into the overview of reporting a conflict of interest (should one occur). Board members asked clarifying questions and Ms. Sorensen and Ms. Alicoate provided appropriate guidance as it related to the function of the Board.

6. Hear and discuss a presentation on the Board's Community Learning Series.

Ms. Alicoate explained that the Community Learning Series would include eight episodes in the series at approximately 15min each. The episodes will be filmed in a documentary, storytelling style coordinated, filmed, and edited by City staff. Board members will need to assist by providing topic expertise and suggestions for panelists or interviewees. The series will connect and highlight community groups within Mesa.

7. Hear and discuss a presentation on the existing 2019-2021 HRAB Strategic Plan.

Ms. Alicoate advised that a strategic plan is used to guide the Board's direction for the next 2 years. During the process Board members have a chance for input, opportunity to provide new ideas, prioritize work, and highlight the Board's work history. Ms. Alicoate reviewed sections of the 2019-2021 HRAB Strategic Plan.

8. Participate in a facilitated discussion with the purpose of establishing a shared vision for the HRAB workplan to be incorporated in the 2021-2023 Strategic Plan update.

Ms. Alicoate stated that she will send out a survey in the following week to gather information on: the Board's commitment to existing goals and projects; gather topic expertise and panel suggestions for the Community Learning Series; collect other topics of interest for board work (as a whole); suggestions for future HRAB presentations; and general level of availability to dedicate to the Board. Information will be culminated to draft the 2021-2023 Strategic Plan for consideration.

9. Discuss and take action on the cancellation or rescheduling of the following Board meetings:

(9a) Rescheduling of November 24, 2021 Board meeting to November 17, 2021.

It was moved by Mr. McAllister, seconded by Mr. Campos that the November 2021 Board meeting be moved to November 24, 2021.

Upon tabulation of votes, it showed:

AYES- Mr. Williams, Mr. Brennan, Mr. Campos, Ms. Duarte, Ms. Faatoafe, Mr. Holmes, Ms. Hammond, Mr. McAllister, and Ms. Nonthe Sanchez.

NAYS- None

(9b) Cancellation of December 22, 2021 Board meeting.

It was moved by Mr. McAllister, seconded by Ms. Faatoafe that the December 2021 Board meeting be cancelled.

Upon tabulation of votes, it showed:

AYES- Mr. Williams, Mr. Brennan, Mr. Campos, Ms. Duarte, Ms. Faatoafe, Mr. Holmes, Ms. Hammond, Mr. McAllister, and Ms. Nonthe Sanchez.

NAYS- None

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

(10a) Next HRAB meeting will be held on September 22, 2021 at 6pm via ZOOM to be later announced.

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

Ms. Faatoafe stated that she attended the Small Business Resource & Matchmaking Event on August 19, 2021 held at the University of Phoenix hosted by Arizona Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. Ms. Nonthe Sanchez shared that she is a public policy major. Mr. Williams reported that AZ MLK awards are currently open for nominations. Additionally, Mr. Williams shared that he attended the Zen Nights Juneteenth event in Downtown Mesa on June 19, 2021 where the Mayor issued a proclamation.

12. Adjournment.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:04PM

Submitted By:



Andrea Alicoate,
Diversity & Special Projects Manager