
**CITY OF MESA
HUMAN RELATIONS ADVISORY BOARD (HRAB)
March 23, 2022 Minutes**

The Human Relations Advisory Board (HRAB) of the City of Mesa met on March 23, 2022
at 6:00pm in the Lower Level, City Council Chambers, 57 E First St.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Ron Williams - Chair
Tom Brennan
Willie Campos
Margaret Duarte
Amy-Lyn Faatoafe
Joseph Holmes
Christiana Hammond
Rochelle Johns
Bill McAllister

MEMBERS ABSENT

Yudidt Nonthe-Sanchez
Jared Smith – Vice Chair

STAFF PRESENT

Andrea Alicoate
Laura Hyneman

GUESTS

Teresa Jackson

1. Chair's Call to Order.

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

Announcement of excused absences.

Ms. Nonthe-Sanchez and Mr. Smith were announced as excused absences.

2. Items from Citizens Present.

No citizens wished to speak to the board.

3. Approval of minutes from the February 23, 2022 HRAB meeting.

It was moved by Mr. Brennan and 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. Johns and Mr. McAllister.

NAYS- None

4. Hear and discuss a presentation on the engagement efforts for community action in the Mesa Climate Action Plan.

Ms. Alicoate advised that the City of Mesa formed its first Climate Action Plan (MCAP), a Mayor and Council priority initiative, to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, build resilience in the community and address the negative outcomes of a changing climate in June 2021. Part of the MCAP was to develop community-based action items to be incorporated into the plan. Ms. Alicoate

introduced Teresa Jackson with Green Play; a consultant company hired to assist with the community engagement efforts.

Ms. Jackson informed that the City engaged the community through workshops, an online platform, virtual public meetings and a prioritization survey. The City hosted six community workshops provide an opportunity to inform, consult, involve, and collaborate between September 14, 2021 – September 23, 2021 with the goal to gather input on climate action from resident stakeholders. A virtual lunchtime meeting series was conducted over six consecutive weeks in October and November.

For the online engagement, a multilingual online platform provided information about the MCAP and offered a mechanism for community members to contribute their ideas. The website utilized polls, an ideas board, and an online survey to gather community thoughts, priorities, and perspectives. The website launched in early September and remained in use through February 2022. An online survey was conducted to garner feedback for the prioritization of climate action initiatives. A total of 2,221 responses were received.

Ms. Jackson provided an overview of the demographics of the participants at the different levels of engagement. The Board asked clarifying questions to ensure that representation for demographics were considered. Ms. Alicoate advised the Board that next steps were to provide a presentation to the Sustainability and Transportation Council Sub-Committee meeting on April 7th, and then look to bringing an updated version of the MCAP that folds in the community's interests and priorities to Council for consideration in mid-June.

5. Hear and discuss a presentation on the Mesa Regional Foundation for Accessibility, Diversity & Inclusion new program and efforts.

Mr. Williams shared that the Mesa Regional Foundation for Accessibility, Diversity, and Inclusion is a 501(c)(3) is a local non-profit organization, dedicated to improving the daily resident and visitor experience by elevating Mesa's already leading position as an accessible, equitable and inclusive city through purposeful education and innovative technology. Mr. Williams detailed some of the new programs and initiatives from the Foundation.

S.T.E.P., which stands for Student Tourism Exploration Program, introduces students from Title 1 and vocational high schools to career opportunities within the industry. Through hands-on projects, experiential site visits, activities, guest speakers and more, their exposure to the visitor industry and exploring viable career paths in our hospitality community will support Mesa's future workforce. Camp Level Up aims to address challenges for neurodivergent youth of Mesa by providing an immersive summer camp that will help them develop professional-level skills in game design while also embedding them in a community of support and neurodivergent peers that will help them build the confidence needed to express themselves through this new medium.

Additionally, to honor National Autism Awareness Month, Visit Mesa, 12 West Brewing, and Chupacabra Taproom have created Spectrum Double IPA. The beer will be released on Saturday, April 2nd in celebration of World Autism Awareness Day.

6. Hear and discuss announcement of national diversity program award for Mesa's Dia de Los Muertos Festival.

Ms. Alicoate announced that The National League of Cities selected Mesa as the 2022 Cultural Diversity Awards winner for its two-day Dia de los Muertos celebration. For almost two decades, thousands have gathered annually in Mesa to celebrate this rich Mexican tradition with eclectic music and Ballet Folklorico performances, a bustling mercado, mouth-watering traditional foods and a community altar featuring a local artist. For the past 16 years, a Community Committee, chaired by a City of Mesa Councilmember in partnership with the Consulate General of Mexico, has come together to create an annual event celebrating the cultural tradition of the Mexican holiday of the Day of the Dead. This two-day event at the City of Mesa's Arts Center Campus brings an average of 30,000 people each year to downtown Mesa.

Submissions for the awards program were grouped by size, and evaluated for creativity, impact on the community and scope of the program. Mesa received the top prize in the large city category. Awardees were recognized at NLC's 2022 Congressional City Conference in Washington, D.C. To learn more about NLC Cultural Diversity Award winners, visit www.nlc.org.

7. Discuss and take action on moving the May 2022 Board meeting to May 18, 2022.

Ms. Alicoate informed the board that traditionally the May meeting is moved up a week to avoid conflicts with the Memorial holiday, however that is not the case this year so it is the board's discretion whether they would like to move the meeting date. The board elected to keep the meeting on May 25, 2022.

8. Discuss and take action on the cancellation of the 2022 June and July Board meeting.

It was moved by Ms. Faatoafe and seconded by Ms. Johns that the June and July Board meetings be cancelled.

Upon tabulation of votes, it showed:

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

NAYS- None

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

(9a) Next HRAB meeting will be held on April 27, 2022 at 6pm in the Lower-Level City Council Chambers (57 E 1st St).

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

Ms. Faatoafe announced that she attended the first annual South Pacific Island Festival in Downtown Mesa on March 19th.

Mr. Williams highlighted several events he participated in: February 25th -Chandler Men of Action Tenth Annual African American Banquet, recipient of the 2022 Kenneth Ray Hill: Armed Forces

Award; March 4th- Visit Mesa Equity Committee; March 12th Business & Finance Seminar
Facilitator; March 17th AZ MLK Events committee; March 19th New Leaf Gala.

11. Adjournment.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00PM

***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 480-644-5034 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.