

ARIZONA CIVIL RIGHTS ADVISORY BOARD

Minutes of Public Meeting

February 19, 2015

Board Members Present

Jeff Lavender
Robert Garcia
Daisy Flores
Janet Bain
Beverly Dupree
Juan Ciscomani

Board Members Absent

Howard Meyers

Staff Members Present

Sandra Kane, Executive Director

I. Call to Order.

Chairperson Jeff Lavender called the meeting to order at 2:10 p.m., with the following additional Board Members present telephonically: Robert Garcia, Daisy Flores, Janet Bain, Beverly Dupree, and Juan Ciscomani. The meeting took place at 1275 W. Washington, Lobby Conference Room, Phoenix, Arizona.

II. Approval of Minutes of January 29, 2015 Meeting.

Upon motion by Beverly Dupree, seconded by Janet Bain, the Board unanimously approved the minutes for the January 29, 2015 Board meeting.

III. Election of Chairperson and Vice Chairperson.

Beverly Dupree nominated Juan Ciscomani to be Chairperson, but he declined due to a change of employment and possible conflict in serving on ACRA in the future. Juan Ciscomani then nominated Howard Meyers as Chairperson. Sandra Kane informed the Board that she had contacted Howard Meyers at Juan Ciscomani's request earlier in the day and, although Howard could not attend the telephonic Board meeting, he stated that he would be happy to accept a nomination as Board Chairperson, if nominated. Robert Garcia seconded the nomination, and the Board unanimously approved Howard Meyers as Chairperson.

Beverly Dupree nominated Daisy Flores as Vice Chairperson, but Daisy Flores declined due to work responsibilities. Board members Janet Bain and Robert Garcia also declined. Janet Bain nominated Beverly Dupree as Vice Chairperson, Beverly Dupree accepted the nomination, and Jeff Lavender seconded. The Board unanimously voted to approve Beverly Dupree as Vice Chairperson.

IV. Old Business:

a. Planning for continued support and/or expansion of Inclusive Design in Single Family Housing beyond Pima County.

Sandra Kane stated that the Board adopted a motion at its January 29, 2015 meeting to support inclusive design in single family housing and to work with other groups in moving forward in getting those design requirements extended beyond Pima County to other parts of the State, and that today's meeting was scheduled to discuss the next steps that the Board planned to take in that regard. Ms. Kane relayed to the Board some ideas for expansion of inclusive housing design from Howard Meyers, including: having a workshop with groups who previously spoke to the Board on the issue, involving ASU's College of Public Programs, working with individual builders who would be responsive to importance of people needing access, involving the medical community, finding a town who . Sandra Kane also reported on suggestions from Bill and Collette Altaffer and Sherri Santee who were involved in getting Pima County's Ordinance adopted, including: getting referrals from contractors and architects who spoke at the Tucson forum for referrals to their Phoenix colleagues; contacting Peter Fischer who is ADA Coordinator for the City of Phoenix; and finding a friendly politician. Other ideas include: doing a campaign with incentives for builders to show that they meet the criteria of having inclusive housing design, similar to "Green" housing; and having an organizational meeting hopefully facilitated by the ASU College of Public Programs to see how to move forward on these ideas. Beverly Dupree expressed support of any incentives that the Board is able to provide. Jeff Lavender suggested having Howard Meyers and another member of the Board start working on this. Beverly Dupree and Sandra Kane expressed interest in working on this initial effort with Howard Meyers and reporting back to the Board.

b. Continued discussion of actions to be taken in response to public forums and survey re: law enforcement post SB 1070, including possible support of legislation requiring body cameras for peace officers, participation in study committee re body cameras, and other possible actions.

Sandra Kane reported that HB 2511 which required peace officers to wear body cameras and have a study committee did not move forward, but SB 1300 introduced by Sen. Kavanagh has already passed through one Senate committee and is still active, and will be forwarded to the Board. Sandra Kane stated that an Arizona Republic newspaper article dated Jan. 15, 2015, which will also be shared with the Board, indicates that various cities are interested in having body cameras for peace officers, including Phoenix. The article also indicates that a study was done by the ASU Center for Violence Prevention and Community Safety which tracked two comparatively sized squad areas in the Maryvale precinct, one with body cameras and one without. The study showed that complaints against officers with body cameras dropped by 23% compared to a nearly 11% increase in complaints for officers without them. According to the study, complaints against officers without body cameras in other precincts for the same time period increased by 45%. The article indicates that a study by the Mesa PD showed

significant decrease in use of force complaints against police officers. SB 1300 is expected to have a committee and there is an opportunity for two members of the public appointed by the Governor to be part of the committee. Janet Bain asked if there are any records on the savings resulted from having body cameras, but nothing was listed in the article. Sandra Kane reported that articles indicate that several cities are moving forward with purchasing body cameras throughout the country. Daisy Flores stated that at first glance the bill it seems more geared to protecting officers than the public. The Board members expressed a desire to review the bill and its amendments before deciding whether to support it, and look at this topic at a later meeting.

V. Planning for Future Civil Rights Topics and Meetings.

The Board would like to meet telephonically on April 23, 2015 at 2 p.m. to consider whether to support SB 1300, and to see the progress of Howard and Beverly regarding a coalition with others regarding inclusive housing design.

Janet Bain asked about the status of human trafficking during Super Bowl week. Civil Rights Division Section Chief Counsel Theresa Rassas reported that there was a huge influx of victims during Super Bowl Week. She suggested that there might be an opportunity for victims to pursue civil rights claims where there is not enough evidence for a criminal prosecution.

Theresa Rassas mentioned that the Arizona Fair Housing Partnership is having an event in April that will include inclusive housing design. Information will be sent to the Board about that event.

VI. Division Report.

Sandra Kane mentioned that there is a new Section Chief Counsel, Theresa Rassas, and a new Division Chief Counsel for civil rights named Paul Watkins. The Civil Rights Litigation Section is getting ready for a jury trial in early March in a housing discrimination case regarding an alleged violation of the Crime Free Housing Addendum. Sandra Kane also reported that Jennifer Larson will be going on maternity leave shortly.

VII. Announcements.

None.

VIII. Adjournment.

Upon motion made by Janet Bain, and seconded by Robert Garcia, the meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.