

ARIZONA CIVIL RIGHTS ADVISORY BOARD

Minutes of Public Meeting

November 4, 2015

Board Members Present

Howard Meyers (Chairperson)

Janet Bain

Robert Garcia

Joshua Carden

Elissa Graves

Christopher St. John

Board Members Absent

Daisy Flores

Staff Members Present

Theresa Rassas

Jennifer Larson

Sandra Kane

Tina Rohe

I. Call to Order

Howard Meyers called the meeting to order at 12:38 p.m., with the following Board Members physically present: Christopher St. John, Joshua Carden, and Elissa Graves, and the following Board Member present telephonically: Janet Bain. Robert Garcia joined the meeting in person at 1:19 p.m. The meeting took place at the Arizona Attorney General's Office, 15 S. 15th Avenue, Capital Center Basement Conference Room B, Phoenix, Arizona 85007.

II. Approval of Minutes of Meeting of September 23, 2015

Joshua Carden moved to approve the minutes of the September 23, 2015 meeting, and Janet Bain seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

III. Training

Executive Director Theresa Rassas provided an overview of the Civil Rights Division and the powers of the Arizona Civil Rights Advisory Board (ACRAB). Assistant Attorney General Sandra Kane presented an overview of Open Meeting Law.

IV. Call to Public

Darrell Christensen of Ability 360 (formerly known as ABIL) thanked the Board for their support on the issue of inclusive design, gave an update on recent events relating to inclusive design, and inquired what action the Board was taking with respect to the issue.

V. Civil Rights Division Report including New Legislation and/or Litigation

Theresa Rassas gave an update and advised that the Division provided its opinion to the legislature re a proposed law involving service animals and restaurants, and opined that the law not be passed because it would violate the ADA and the Arizonans with Disabilities Act ("AzDa").

VI. Announcements and Current Events

Theresa Rassas noted that the Division sent a representative to the Human Rights Conference that recently occurred. She announced that Fair Housing Month is in April.

VII. Old Business (Report on Inclusive Housing Design issue and other issues previously addressed)

Theresa Rassas noted that the letter issued by the Board regarding inclusive design is posted on the Board's website. Howard Meyers gave an overview of the public forums that ACRAB held related to inclusive housing and the public comments that the Board received with respect to the issue. Howard Meyers provided background on the Board's efforts to draft a letter to support the adoption of the inclusive design guidelines. He suggested that this is a long-term project. He mentioned that the City of Phoenix is considering adopting the guidelines.

VIII. Planning re: New Civil Rights topics to address in future meetings

Howard Meyers and Janet Bain raised the issue of human trafficking and a memo provided by the Attorney General's Office that lists resources available to victims. Janet proposed that the memo done by the Attorney General's intern, Geramya Smith, be provided to the Board to see if this is an issue the Board would like to be involved in. Theresa Rassas said that Janet Bain could provide the memo to the other Board members. Janet Bain mentioned that it has been proposed that a panel come in to speak with the Board about human trafficking. Janet Bain proposed that the memo be sent to the other Board members so ACRAB can decide if they want to get involved or if there is no need for their involvement. Howard Meyers moved to address the issue of human trafficking at the next meeting. He clarified that ACRAB's interest would be with regard to the civil rights side of human trafficking. Christopher St. John seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Howard Meyers informed the Board that it would be useful to invite people in the community involved in the issue to the meeting to speak at the call to public and turn into a fact finding session. Howard Meyers suggested that Janet Bain be involved in putting a forum together. Janet Bain suggested that another Board Member volunteer to put together a forum as she is unable to assist at this particular time and suggested other people in the community to contact. Howard Meyers volunteered to work with Theresa Rassas to provide more information on the issue at the next meeting so that the Board could determine if it wants to explore this issue. Janet Bain inquired about the issue raised by Tracy Elise. Theresa Rassas stated that she would provide an update at the next meeting. Howard Meyers moved to add the Tracy Elise/ Native American Church issue to the next agenda, and Robert Garcia seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously passed.

Joshua Carden mentioned that if the Division saw any deficiency in available useful data for pursuing current litigation in any civil rights areas, he would be interested in seeing a report from the Division on those deficiencies to see how the Board could assist in future cases and

provide fact-finding assistance. Joshua Carden also mentioned that there is potentially a different standard for age discrimination claims under federal law than under the Arizona Civil Rights Act, and that it could be useful to recommend an Attorney General opinion or a report from the Board on the topic. Howard Meyers moved to add both topics raised by Joshua Carden to the next agenda to see if the Board should proceed with the topics. Elissa Graves seconded the motion. The motion unanimously passed.

Robert Garcia mentioned receiving clarification on the actions that the Board may take to address an issue. Theresa Rassas responded that the topic was covered earlier in the meeting but discussed the actions that the Board may take such as issuing publications, making recommendations to the Civil Rights Division, and issuing general surveys. Howard Meyers moved to include as an agenda item for the next meeting the manner in which the Board can act to promote civil rights in the state of Arizona. Robert Garcia seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

IX. Other Business (including the discussion of Vice Chair)

Theresa Rassas recommending setting a date for the next meeting after the holidays. Howard Meyers moved to set a meeting for January 27th, and Joshua Carden seconded the motion. The motion passed. Howard Meyers suggested having one meeting outside of Maricopa County and moved to put that subject on the next agenda for discussion purposes. Janet Bain seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously. Howard Meyers moved to hold officer elections at the January 27th meeting for Chairperson and Vice Chair roles. Joshua Carden seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously. Robert Garcia requested access to a calendar of events that speak to civil rights issues to assist the Board in deciding topics to discuss for the upcoming year. Howard Meyers moved to discuss at the next meeting what resources there are for the members and the public with regard to a calendar of training and events related to civil rights. Robert Garcia seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously. Howard Meyers encouraged the Board members and Division Staff to do some individual research on this issue.

X. Adjournment

There being no other announcements or matters, Howard Meyers moved to adjourn the meeting, and the motion was seconded by Robert Garcia. The meeting was adjourned at 2:19 p.m.