

**CITY OF ALBUQUERQUE
MEETING MINUTES
AMERICAN WITH DISABILITIES ACT ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Date: Tuesday, September 11, 2018
Time: 5:30 p.m.
Location: City Council Government Center, Room 9081

Board Members Present:

Terri O'Hare, Chair
Sacheen Smith
Daniel Strones
Lisa McNiven

City Staff:

Torri Jacobus, Assistant City Attorney
Rhonda Methvin, Senior Services Division Manager
Danyel Mayer, Paralegal
Paula Bettencourt, Paralegal

Members of the Public:

Michael Lawler

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Chair O'Hare at approximately 5:40 p.m. with four members participating. Members Karen Cushnyr and Michael Renaud were not in attendance at the meeting.

ITEM 1: APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

Chair O'Hare proposed an amendment to the meeting Agenda. Chair O'Hare would like the board to approve the July and August meeting minutes at the next scheduled meeting, since proposed changes to the minutes were not submitted with enough time for the minutes to be revised and ready for the board to review prior to tonight's meeting. There was no further comment pertaining to the Agenda. Chair O'Hare moved to approve the Agenda as amended, and it was seconded by Member Strones. The motion was approved by a vote of 4-0.

ITEM 2: INTRODUCTIONS

Chair O'Hare asked that everyone in attendance take a moment to introduce themselves.

ITEM 3: PUBLIC COMMENT

Public comment was received from Michael Lawler. Mr. Lawler described how the City has installed raised portions of concrete on street corners near certain cross-signal buttons. He said the raised concrete is indistinguishable from the sidewalk level concrete because there is no bright paint or reflectors to indicate the step up. Mr. Lawler said he had an incident on the NE corner of Constitution/Wyoming while riding his bike. He unexpectedly ran into the raised concrete and almost lost control of his bike. Mr. Lawler asks the ADA board if it has any say in having the City paint the raised concrete with a bright paint so that they are more visible to sidewalk traffic. Member Smith said she has also had problems with the raised concrete. Chair O'Hare asked Mr. Lawler if he had any pictures of the raised concrete, and he did not. Chair O'Hare advised Mr. Lawler that she would see what the board could do for him.

ITEM 4: GUEST SPEAKER RHONDA METHVIN

Guest speaker Rhonda Methvin, Recreation Division Manager for the City's Department of Senior Affairs, introduced herself and her division. Ms. Methvin explained that her division oversees rec centers that help the City's seniors with services like meals, transportation to appointments, home services, volunteer programs, sports and fitness. Ms. Methvin boasted that her division has over 800 volunteers that help run the department. She also explained how the senior affairs division is the second lowest funded program in the City right behind the animal welfare division. The senior affairs division is requesting capital improvements to be able to further grow the senior program.

Member Strones inquired about the programs policy for handling food allergies. Ms. Methvin stated that there is a Nutritionist on staff and she would have to ask that person. Member Strones also asked about how to refer persons to the Foster Grandparent Program. Ms. Methvin stated she would pass along the contact information for the person who heads that program.

Chair O'Hare asked Ms. Methvin how her division accommodates ADA. Ms. Methvin explained that the division currently has twelve ADA accessible vans and as the older vans come up for replacement, they are replaced with ADA accessible vans. There is no charge for seniors ages 60+ who use the transportation service.

Ms. Methvin asked Member Smith about computer software that the division could use on its computers for the visually impaired. Member Smith provided Ms. Methvin with several suggestions.

Ms. Methvin explained that the senior affairs division is looking for ADA board members interested in participating in an accreditation processes currently underway at four of its centers. Any board members interested in being on one of the accreditation committees can contact Ms. Methvin directly for further information. She handed out her business card to the board members. The committees meet monthly and any volunteer commitments would last through March 2019.

ITEM 5: DISCUSSION ON DEPT. OF CULTURAL SERVICES SITE VISITS

Three site visits have been completed and there are three more to go. The three remaining site visits are scheduled for next week (Sept. 18, 19 & 20) with Chair O'Hare and Members Strones and Smith to attend. Member McNiven is unable to attend due to prior commitments.

Member Smith reported on the site visit to the museum. She reported that there were no services in place to allow blind people independence while at the museum. Museum staff did state that persons requiring assistive services should call three days prior to their visit to make arrangements. The museum staff interviewed admitted to not having had any type of disability awareness training, but seemed open to change.

Member Smith next reported on the site visit to the public library. Member Smith felt like the library director did not want to hear what she had to say, and was not interested in taking measures to accommodate the blind. Member Smith pointed out that the libraries have made everything touchscreen without having accommodations for the blind. The director did state that the blind could ask library staff to assist them with research, checking out books, computer usage, etc.

Discussion was held on the site visit to the Kimo Theatre. This building has no elevator and is not very accessible. Member Strones stated he was focused on fire safety and the Kimo

met that. His only negative comment was that a wheelchair may not fit through the fire exit door.

Chair O'Hare explained that Mr. Hummell told her that a KRQE News 13 reporter could participate in one of the site visits next week.

ITEM 6: DISCUSSION ON DISABILITY AWARENESS/EDUCATION EVENT

Chair O'Hare proposed having the board write a letter to the newspaper editor about the ADA board and what it does. Member Smith expressed concern with doing anything in October since there was not a lot of time. The board agreed to forgo an October event and the board would revisit this idea in the spring.

Member Strones stated he would like to discuss his research findings at the next meeting, and Chair O'Hare agreed to add this as an agenda item.

ITEM 7: ANNOUNCEMENTS/NEW BUSINESS

Member Stones talked about a visit to a place called Community Kitchen. He stated the owner would like to have ADA board members look at her facility and give suggestions.

Member Smith suggested inviting the new director of transit Bernie Toon to an upcoming meeting.

Member McNiven inquired about the status of accessibility of the ART project now that funding had been received.

Member McNiven told the board that there had been another accident involving a pedestrian at the corner of 6th/Silver. The pedestrian was in a wheel chair, and this is the second time in 2-3 years that this has happened. Member McNiven wants the board's support to advocate for the reinstallation of a traffic light at that intersection. Member McNiven even suggested inviting bicycle groups to their meetings to obtain their input on why they advocated for the removal of the lights and to see if common ground can be reached.

Member Strones commented on the City's building security. He explained that he is frequently stopped by security when he enters the building to come to board meetings. Ms. Jacobus stated she would review the issue with Mr. Hummell.

Member McNiven suggested the board advertise to the community which voting sites would be ADA accessible at the upcoming election.

ITEM 8: ADJOURNMENT. NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED FOR OCTOBER 2, 2018

At approximately 6:45 p.m. a motion was made by Member McNiven to adjourn the meeting, and it was seconded by Member Strones. The motion was approved by a vote of 4-0.

Terri O'Hare, Chair

Date: _____