

# AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT ADVISORY COUNCIL MINUTES

Tuesday, August 1st, 2017 at 5:30pm at City Council Committee Room,  
9th Floor, Suite 9081  
One Civic Plaza NW, Albuquerque, NM

**Members Present:** Lisa McNiven, Terri O'Hare, Karen Cushnyr

**Members Absent:** Peggy Chong, Sheenie Smith

**Staff Members Present:** ABQ Human Rights/ADA: Annabelle Romero

**Members of the Public:** Thomas Sanchez

**Call to Order and Introductions:** Meeting was an 'informal meeting' due to no quorum. The meeting began at approximately 5:30 pm

**Approval of Minutes and Agenda:** No quorum was present so the minutes could not be approved.

**Presentations** There were no presentations.

**Public Comment:** Thomas Sanchez spoke regarding riding the bus with his service dog that gets 'lunged' at often by pet dogs riding the bus with their owners. These pet dogs are not muzzled and aggressive. Mr. Sanchez said this has happened 3 months in a row and he and his dog are fearful when riding the bus due to this. Mr. Sanchez has been trying to work with the transit dept and drivers, offering to ride and train on the spot in these situations. Transit turned this offer down. Mr. Sanchez stated that "Transit does not listen to riders and do what the dog needs."

## **ADA Council Discussions:**

Karen Cushnyr spoke about ADA Council issues such as meeting attendance guidelines, and the group discussed and agreed on 3 member absences allowed per year. Plans were made to discuss this at the September meeting with the larger group. The ability to conference call in to the meetings still works as a way to attend. The meeting of dates for 2017 and 2018 were discussed. This is a list of the dates:

### **2017**

Tuesday, Sept 5,  
October 3, 2017  
November 7, 2017  
December 5, 2017

## 2018

Tuesday, January 9th

February 6, 2018

March 6, 2018

April 3, 2018

May 1, 2018

June 5, 2018

July 10, 2018

August 7, 2018

Sept 11, 2018

October 2, 2018

November 6, 2018

December 4, 2018

**Membership applications delayed:** This is still a problem with city staff handling Boards and Commissions. **Three people** are waiting to hear back on membership: Daniel Strone, Lindsay Sloane, and Coby Livingstone. More on this further in.

Karen Cushnyr spoke about progress with meetings regarding service animals and the Sunport. She also echoed some of Mr. Sanchez's issues with transit and mentioned how people will rush the service dog and the dog may go into protective mode of their person. Educating drivers on service animal/legal rights and training is very important, she felt.

Karen mentioned that the Sunport was supposed to have animal relief areas renovated by July 2016, but is still working on it. Her service dog was attacked at the Sunport recently. A training for the transit drivers and staff was mentioned for 'role playing' so staff can be proactive, and this could help to change the culture towards ADA and service animals on transit.

Lisa McNiven mentioned the new ART station platforms and wanted to know if the schedule/destination/arrivals info would be posted on lit signs with moving text info, for those who cannot hear the verbal announcements of buses leaving/coming at the platforms. It was decided to have Bruce Rizzieri come to the September ADA Council meeting to address Lisa's questions as they impact the Deaf community.

Lisa wanted to know the ART route, and if it was traveling east to Tramway on Central Ave?

Lisa also explained the very exciting project of *Vigilant Guard*, a statewide emergency preparedness exercise that took place in early August. Lisa facilitated FEMA and the other agencies to include people with disabilities in these drills. August 8<sup>th</sup> was the final, large exercise, happening in Lamy at the Amtrak station. Trains were used as evacuation points with hundreds of folks involved as the 'injured' public, and hundreds involved from the emergency responder agencies. This was so successful that the Region may involve Lisa and people with disabilities in future drills.

Lisa had a situation she wanted to share although there was not much the ADA Council could do about it. Perhaps Gabe Campos could do something. Lisa attends movies at various theaters around the city. At each she is provided varying technology for audio captioning with 'glasses' that project the script/audio onto a space she can read. The quality of these devices differs and some are almost unusable. This is not something that can be ignored by the disability community. There may be follow up on this subject in the future.

Terri O'Hare mentioned she had filed IPRA requests of the city to provide the information that Carmen Ortiz apparently refuses to provide, such as outstanding, unknown ADA Council membership applications, and the reasons for lengthy approval delays such as 7-8-9 months. Requests included a spreadsheet with applicant name, date applied and status of each name. The city refused to reply by the required deadline to provide the information so she contacted the Attorney General's office. They are now handling this as enforcement of IPRA and expect delivery of these materials by Sept 5<sup>th</sup>. This is with a city-requested extension from a deadline in August. Terri is disappointed that a member of a city board has to file an IPRA to get common public data about a board she and others serve on.

**Adjournment:**

The meeting ended at 7pm. The informal meeting minutes from August 1, 2017 have been prepared and approved by:

Chairperson: Karen Cushnyr \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Secretary: Terri O'Hare \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_