

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT ADVISORY COUNCIL MINUTES

Tuesday, May 2, 2017 at 5:30pm at City Council Committee Room, 9th Floor, Suite 9081,
One Civic Plaza NW, Albuquerque, NM

Members Present: Lisa McNiven, Peggy Chong, Terri O'Hare, Karen Cushnyr, Sacheen Smith

Members Absent: none

Staff Members Present: Facilities: Ken Mitchell, ABQ Human Rights/ADA: Annabelle Romero
and Gabe Campos, Christina Sandoval: ABQ Parks & Recreation

Members of the Public: none

Call to Order and Introductions: Meeting called to order at approximately 5:35 pm

Approval of Minutes and Agenda: Peggy Chong made a motion to approve the April 2017
Minutes and Agenda, Lisa McNiven seconded approval.

Presentations

Ken Mitchell from Facilities for the city gave an update on progress retrofitting the bathrooms in the city/county building to meet ADA compliance. He passed out color copies of photos showing new lowered counters, toilet stalls and lowered soap dispensers. He addressed incorrect Braille signs or missing Braille signage. Progress is being made on several floors.

Christina Sandoval is a planner from Parks & Recreation. Christina spoke about several items affecting access and city trails and parks. Her update covered the Bosque Trail that runs in phases along the Rio Grande near downtown. The trail's renovation began 4 years ago and is now almost complete. It is approximately 5 miles of trail from the Central/Tingley park area to Montano Blvd. The trail is stabilized crusher fine, 6 feet wide and is useable even a short time after rains due to the construction process. There are several access trail heads with parking for this trail, from the Central Bio Park entrance, to Gabaldon in the Duranes area, to the Rio Grande Nature Center at Candelaria. There is a new pedestrian/bike bridge across the siphon on Phase 1 linking the trail to Phase 2. In the Rio Grande Nature Center, an existing trail, (The Aldo Leopold trail) has been resurfaced with pits filled in and smoothed. There will be a community celebration/dedication of this trail at a future date. Karen Cushnyr asked Christina about the public process for alignment/trail path selection and asked if the man made, narrow, inaccessible trails that run along the river's edge will be closed off. Karen asked this due to the fact that the final alignments in Phase

2 and Phase 3 divert the accessible trail from the river view and go 'inland' and do not offer an equal experience of access to the river. ADA states equal access must be designed and provided for in facilities and programs for the public. Christina mentioned some areas of the bosque users paths will be closed and allowed to grow back to a natural, vegetative non-path use, but she could not commit to restricting access to the river's edge man made trails. Karen described the outcome of the trail alignment selection as not equitable. The final alignment in Phase 3 was not offered in the public workshops, but was arrived at in private, non public meetings with Sierra Club members and other enviro-focused representatives. Karen said the outcome was not equitable and not acceptable. Christina did not have a response addressing this specific topic.

Christina then described a new park/playground that offers some inclusive, accessible features like the Park Above in Rio Rancho. It is called Daniel Webster Park and is 5 acres. The first phase has a play area, shaded coverings, a soft but firm surface material near play furniture, and is to be a therapeutic family oriented space. Peggy Chong asked about crime issues in the parks and how P&R deals with this. Lisa McNiven mentioned that NMTAP, a program the Governor's Commission on Disability handles has resources for adaptive equipment and adaptive sports.

Comments from the Public: none

ADA Council Discussions:

Terri spoke about the team redesigning the Civic Plaza and access/ramp issues.

Sheenie spoke about ART and unmarked bus stops and dangerous holes and pits that she almost fell into, and twisted her ankle.

Peggy spoke about the new, upcoming Mayor elections and that we need to figure out how and where/when to handle a candidate forum to answer questions about disability, access and rights in the city.

Membership applications being delayed: This is still a problem with city staff handling Boards and Commissions. Two people are waiting to hear back on membership: Daniel Strone and Lindsay Sloane.

ISSUE:	WHAT:	WHO: City Staff/ADA Cncl Members	WHEN: Key dates & deadlines
ADA access in Civic Plaza renovations	Review plans for access in all spaces	Terri O	
ART transit stops access	Assure ADA access along ART construction	? WHO?	
4-Way Stop Signs - no lights downtown	Advocacy on getting lights back on critical intersections	Lisa McNiven	
Planning Workshop for ADA Council	Our planning retreat, when, where, etc?	WHO?	

ISSUE:	WHAT:	WHO: City Staff/ADA Cncl Members	WHEN: Key dates & deadlines
City of ABQ ADA Transition Plan updates	Status of the consultant's work and public meetings coming up	DMD-will update us at this meeting. On Agenda	
Parks & Rec Bosque Trail grand opening 'celebration'	A grand opening of the 3 Phases of 'accessible' trails in bosque	Terri emailed P&R director Barbara Taylor and staffers asking to keep ADA Council involved	P&R staff to advise/respond when date is
Mobile app for bus transit needs to be ADA accessible for blind, low vision users	The mobile app that was developed for the city is not useable by the blind community	Bruce Rizzieri was going to get back to the ADA Council. Peggy Chong involved. Karen Cushnyr involved. Peter Ames is mentioned as a contact/consultant •	Has Mr. Rizzieri responded?Status of issue is?

ISSUE:	WHAT:	WHO: City Staff/ADA Cncl Members	WHEN: Key dates & deadlines
Vibrating signal/Walk pole for deaf/blind pedestrians at Central and Tramway	A request for a ‘vibrotactile’ type of signal for blind/deaf pedestrians was discussed	Lisa McNiven and _____ to pursue this issue.	

Issues for Follow up by Members:

Other issues to add?

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 7 pm by a motion from Peggy Chong. It was seconded by Lisa McNiven. The meeting minutes from May 2, 2017 have been prepared and approved by:

Chairperson: Karen Cushnyr _____ Date _____

Secretary: Terri O’Hare _____ Date _____