

# AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT ADVISORY COUNCIL MINUTES

Tuesday, March 6, 2018 - 5:30-7pm in City Council Committee Room  
9th Floor, Suite 9081  
One Civic Plaza NW, Albuquerque, NM

**Members Present:** Lisa McNiven, Terri O'Hare, Peggy Chong, Karen Cushnyr, Daniel Strones, Sacheen Smith, Michael Renaud

**Members Absent:** none

**City Staff Present:** Bill Zarr-COA Attny, Alan Armijo, Constituent Services, APD Chief of Police Mike Geier

**Members of the Public:** Thomas Sanchez, Brad Cushnyr, Lisa Rossignol, Travis Davis

**Call to Order and Introductions:** Meeting had a quorum. Meeting began at 5:30 pm

**Approval of Minutes and Agenda:** Lisa McNiven moved for the Minutes and Agenda to be approved, Peggy Chong seconded. Approved.

**Public Comment:** none

## Issues:

### APD Chief of Police Mike Geier

Chief Geier listened to comments and questions from various board members. Sacheen Smith spoke about using a white cane due to blindness, Daniel Strones spoke to issues of TBI, driving and possible DWI stops, and not being intoxicated but APD may assume so. The board wanted Chief Geier and APD officers to know that sometimes it is disability that causes an incorrect appearance of intoxication. Peggy Chong mentioned a training video with guide dogs for APD and inquired about its use and location. Discussion followed and a flip booklet was mentioned that used to be available to officers and residents of the city with various disabilities that explained how to address a person with a disability in law enforcement incidents. Chief Geier expressed interest in the flip book and mentioned possibly producing an updated version of it. Medical marijuana cards and sobriety tests were mentioned with questions for the Chief, in addition to an incident on a city bus where all riders were held after dark due to an APD incident and when let go, a rider was not in a familiar area with her guide dog. The Chief encouraged the board to contact him directly about issues so he can follow up. The board appreciated Chief Geier's direct, honest answers to the questions and concerns.

## **Agenda Format**

The Chair then rearranged the order of the Agenda and moved elections of new officers to last, moved the Code of Ethics item to the April meeting, and also moved a discussion and vote on proposed Bylaw content to the April meeting.

## **Member New Business**

### **Planning Retreat**

A discussion about the board planning retreat in February was held. There was no detailed feedback by board members on the retreat, specifically. It was generally felt the retreat went well.

### **Council Budget**

There was a discussion of a proposed budget that Peggy Chong put together for member input. The total was \$4,900 and it was broken down as \$1,400 for community outreach/booths/tabling events, marketing items such as brochures, give aways at events and booth equipment \$3,000. Braille business cards were priced at \$500. The budget will be refined and discussed at the next meeting.

### **Letter to Mayor**

A letter to Mayor Keller regarding the importance of the Inspector General's report on ADA violations in the city was reviewed and a few minor revisions were suggested. Mike Renaud is handling the letter. The letter will come from the ADA Advisory Board to Mayor Keller.

## **Elections**

Elections of officers proceeded. ADA Advisory Board officers are currently Chair: Karen Cushnyr, VP: Peggy Chong and Secretary: Terri O'Hare. The City Charter indicates all Boards and Commissions *shall elect new officers every calendar year*. The Board has not done so and is 7 months past the date of yearly elections—August 2017. The previous

ADA Coordinator and his assistant did not train or advise the ADA Board on Boards and Commissions guidelines. The current chair incorrectly thought that the ADA Board had agreed to “all serve 2-year terms at the start of the Board’s inception”. Terri O’Hare brought up the need for new officer elections at least 2 times during the 7-month extension and stated this at the meeting. City staff attny Bill Zarr advised the board of several actions it could take to comply with the City Charter. The board could vote to hold over the positions until August 2018 and vote for new officers at that meeting, the board could vote for new officers at the current March meeting shifting the start date of elected positions, or could vote to elect new officers until August and then ‘revote’ again for new officers. The board voted and approved to hold over all but one current elected office until August 2018. Terri O’Hare as Secretary declined to hold over her position and Mike Renaud volunteered to handle Secretary duties until August.

The new slate of officers until August 2018 are Chair: Karen Cushnyr, VP: Peggy Chong and Secretary: Mike Renaud. This was a complex process and the board appreciated the assistance of Bill Zarr.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was moved for adjournment by Peggy Chong at 7:00 pm, and seconded by Lisa McNiven. Approved.

**Next Meeting April 3, 2018**

The meeting minutes from March 6, 2018 have been prepared and approved by:

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

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