

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT ADVISORY COUNCIL MINUTES

Tuesday, November 1, 2016 at 5:30pm
at North Valley Senior Center, at 3825 4th Street NW 87107

Members Present: Lisa McNiven, Peggy Chong, Terri O'Hare, Karen Cushnyr, CeeCee Montgomery

Members Absent: none

Staff Members Present: Annabelle Romero, Gabe Campos (Office of Human Rights and Diversity/ADA)

Guests: John Thomas, Ron Romero, David Harper

Call to Order and Introductions: Meeting called to order at approximately 5:45 pm

Approval of Minutes and agenda: Lisa made a motion to approve minutes and agenda, Peggy seconded approval.

Presentations

Ron Romero, engineer from the city DMD dept at COA described the process for the Transition Plan for DMD. The city had only 1 response, so they rebid it and expect more responses to the RFP. They had a date for another meeting of Nov. 22, 2016. January, 2107 will include public meetings and the selection committee may include Gabe Campos or one of our board members. Lisa McNiven asked if the focus is roads and sidewalks? Mr. Romero responded it is and signal poles, ramps. Lisa asked about stoplights being removed from downtown streets (replaced with 4 way stop signs which are dangerous for blind people, deaf people and deaf/blind people). Many crosswalks near her place of work are now dangerous she stated, due to many people with disabilities having to get across those and into offices constantly. Mr Romero spoke about this. Lisa asked if it was permanent? Mr. Romero said it was a work in progress. If we want to get involved or give feedback we should contact Councilor Benton, and others within DMD that Mr. Romero can provide.

John Thomas is a local user of bike trails and an advocate with the city. He focuses on the east side of town but is involved in projects all over the city such as the Bosque Trail, the 50 Mile Loop, and others including the Tramway Trail. Mr. Thomas mentioned that the city of ABQ has a Bronze ranking from the League of American Bicyclists. He'd like to see it head towards Gold, Silver or Platinum. He described a fellow bike user, Gary Kelly who uses a tandem bike his wife rides and steers as Gary is blind, but Gary can pedal. Many of the city trails have entries too narrow for Mr. Kelley's bike. The bollards are in the way and John and Gary are working on this one location by one location. Mr. Thomas brought a diagram of Tramway Trail to show where trail head entry areas are, for parking so citizen's could park with their

bike or wheelchair and then, experience the Trail. It is 9 miles long and relatively safe. It is also the second most popular mixed use trail in the city. Various improvements for ADA access are needed in the whole trail and we have to be vocal and seen/heard said Mr. Thomas, to have impact. NMDOT typically sees no one with disabilities in meetings for their trails, that can and should change.

David Harper is the new Inspector General of the city and explained how he works with city staff and law enforcement and the various city departments and state authorities to focus on these primary concerns:

1. Contract Fraud this would involve all city depts, and facilities including the Airport, BioPark, Balloon Park, Police. Mr. Harper would work with the FBI, IRS, The State auditor, and the AG office for his investigative cases.

2. Public corruption Works with all levels when pursuing issues of public corruption and,

3. Occupational Fraud Employee embezzlement, etc.

Mr. Harper's office handles issues directly with City Council, reviews ordinances and draft legislation, check compliance issues, and is getting educated on certain state laws that impact the COA. Civil Rights issues such as minority business, disabled-owned businesses and salary equality are issues Mr. Harper feels are important. Mr. Harper also deals with APS, OC. He is involved with the ART plan in terms of contract issues.

ADA Board members business:

Karen Cushnyr:

Karen spoke about the ABQ Transit ride service allowing pets on board without revisiting the new resolution language she and a few others prepared for Councilor Jones. There also needs to be a consistent way to evaluate the experiences of bus drivers and passengers before the program is made permanent. There have been discussions about members of the ADA Council attending City Council and getting on the agenda for a longer presentation time. Discussion was held about the sign in the buses and if it was effective, about other alternatives to achieve the same outcome, supposedly that of low income citizen's being able to take their pet on the bus to vet appts. (Which could also be achieved by cab vouchers the city signs and pays, so entire busses of the public do not have to deal with more untrained pets and delays for drivers.) There is no data collection other than a bus driver giving their personal feedback if they remember. Councilor Jone's office has not been open to deal with the individuals including Karen Cushnyr to create consensus, so it seems as though they assume the matter is closed.

John Daymon at Council Services was mentioned as a contact regarding getting on agendas for a longer space/time in 2017. Needs assignment to ADA member to call.

Terri O'Hare mentioned she'd like us to consider a planning workshop meeting, perhaps longer than a typical Council meeting to plan out priorities and identify members who are interested in working on certain issues. The group could also plan ahead for the year and deal with the SW Conference on Disability in October, and other local conferences and tabling events. This led to a mechanism for funding, as these things cost money. We need to talk more in our January planning workshop about this, which could be held mid month as members are available.

Other members comments were included in feedback in discussions and not on specific issues during this meeting.

Public Comment

There were no members of the public present, thus no comments.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:05 pm by a motion from Peggy Chong.

Next Meeting: The next meeting of the ADA Council will be held on Tuesday, December 6, 2016 at the North Valley Senior Center at 3825 4th Street NW, Albuquerque 87107

The meeting minutes from November 1, 2016, have been prepared and approved by:

Chairperson: Karen Cushnyr _____ Date _____

Secretary: Terri O'Hare



Date: 12.1.2016