

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT ADVISORY COUNCIL MINUTES

Tuesday, December 5, 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 via phone, Mike Renaud, Peggy Chong

Members Absent: Sacheen Smith, Daniel Strones

City Staff Members Present: None

Members of the Public: Thomas Sanchez

Call to Order and Introductions: Meeting had a quorum. The meeting began at approximately 5:35 pm

Approval of Minutes and Agenda: Agenda was moved for approval by Lisa McNiven, seconded by Terri O'Hare. Minutes were moved for approval by Lisa McNiven, seconded by Michael Renaud.

Presentations: No presentations

Public Comment: Thomas Sanchez stated he was on one of the new electric buses for the ART transit project and feels the aisles are very narrow, too narrow for a service animal and a person to navigate safely. This was discussed by the advisory board and suggestions were to have the aisle width measured and a 'field trip' planned with Mr. Sanchez invited so all could see this issue in person. Andrew DeGarmo at Transit was mentioned as a contact to make these visits happen. Mr. Sanchez also mentioned there were no drivers stopping at the San Mateo stop when he was there recently waiting for a bus ride. He mentioned the drivers need training.

ADA Council Discussions:

Council/board 'retreat'/planning workshop.

A workshop for the purpose of 2018 planning was discussed by members. The recent IG report for the city regarding the lack of ADA access in ABQ city facilities and programs is considered to be a rough guide for discussions. A number of dates and times were considered and after receiving the venue's availability—it was decided the date of February 17, a Saturday, from 10am-2pm at the Albuquerque Museum of Art Board Room would be the location. It will be open to the

public, but the goal of the meeting is to plan the primary topics and issues to address during the next year as raised by members. All ADA Advisory board members but one, can attend and have committed. More info will be available at the February ADA Advisory board meeting on February 6th.

Interpreters will need to be reserved for this planning workshop.

Michael Renaud spoke about the importance of the Inspector General’s report on ADA access and his wish for this to be discussed in depth at the workshop. He felt it was not 100% comprehensive, but a good starting point to capitalize on the visibility of the report. Discussion followed on how to easily Braille emboss documents and even this IG report.

Lisa McNiven mentioned that the Deaf Culture Center would be moving ahead with planning, funding and design by a construction company with background in this kind of project. It will be located at Tramway and Central, have 62 units, 1 and 2 bedrooms, and will incorporate state of the art technology for deaf residents to use such as videophones, open interior spaces, and loop technology. There are other developments like this in Phoenix/Mesa AZ and Milwaukee, MN. Discussion followed on whether this would be considered ‘segregated housing’ and Lisa explained it as “a way to live with others who use the same language as each other.” We await further news on this exciting project.

Adjournment:

The meeting was moved for adjournment by Peggy Chong at 6:42 pm, and seconded by Lisa McNiven.

The informal meeting minutes from December 5, 2017 have been prepared and approved by:

Chairperson: Karen Cushnyr _____ Date _____

Secretary: Terri O’Hare _____ Date _____