



CITY OF ALBUQUERQUE
Route 66 Visitor Center Commission Meeting
July 22, 2025 – Minutes

City Councilor – Klarissa Peña, present

City Councilor – Brook Bassan, present

Department of Arts & Culture - Shelle Sanchez, Ph.D., present

Visit Albuquerque Position – Tania Armenta, present

West Central Community Development Group - Twyla McComb, present

West Central Community Development Group - Lorenzo (House) Otero, present

West Central Community Development Group - Carlos Garcia, present

West Central Community Development Group - Joe Chavez, absent

Mayoral Appointee - JR Rael, present

Hispano Chamber of Commerce Representative, absent

Support Staff - Jeff Hertz, Bree Ortiz, present

1. Call to Order

- a. JR called the meeting to order at 3:04 p.m.

2. Review & Approve Minutes from May Meeting

- a. JR moved to approve the minutes of the last meeting at. Lorenzo seconded the motion. Minutes were unanimously approved.

3. Public Comment - JR moved to move the Valentine Diner agenda item to the top of the agenda for Public Comment. The move was unanimously approved.

- a. Shelle gave a history on the Little House Diner and reviewed the proposal to move the diner from Nob Hill to the Visitor Center.
- b. Members of the public were in attendance to comment on their support for the diner to move or stay in Nob Hill, including nieces of Joe and Della Hernandez who donated the Little House Diner to the Albuquerque Museum in 1993. Representatives of Nob Hill Mainstreet spoke in support of the diner's proposed move along with Triangle Park improvements. Representatives of Nob Hill Neighborhood Association were opposed to moving the Diner from Nob Hill, but were also concerned about Triangle Park and the need for better activation and investment in the park. After discussion, they were open to the move.
- c. The Commission members addressed some of the public comment for clarification.

4. Updates

- a. Public Art Installed - The County funded public art piece was transferred to the City's Public Art program and installed at the Visitor Center.
- b. Centennial Art Engagement Project - "Route 66 Remixed" is an art-fueled road trip down Central Ave. with 18 interactions along the route. Installations will begin in August.
- c. Maintenance and Repair Updates - Bree provided an update on the building including the installation of new flooring and the programming of the new thermostats.

- d. Staffing Updates – A Visitor Center Manager has been referred for the position. An Events Supervisor position is posted currently.
- e. Project Committees - The committees will be restructured to focus on special projects.
 - i. Exhibit Development - Lorenzo, Twyla, Visit ABQ, and Councilor Peña would like to be on this committee.
 - ii. Site Masterplan – Councilor Bassan, JR, and Carlos would like to be on this committee.

5. Valentine Diner

- a. Moved to top of agenda to accommodate public comment and public interest.

6. Commission Roles & Responsibility

- a. Twyla had questions on the Legislation for the Commission and would like to discuss the roles in more detail in a separate meeting. JR reminded the Commission that this is an advisory role and that the Resolution can be interpreted when the Visitor Center is open and operational. The Commission should take the Department's lead.
- b. Twyla would like to add a sub-committee to dive into the Commission's role. JR, Councilor Peña, Twyla, Lorenzo, and Jeff Hertz would like to be on the committee.

7. Announcements

- a. West Fest will be on September 20
- b. Visit ABQ is hosting an Education Session at the Visitor Center on July 31 from 9:30 a.m. - 12 p.m.
- c. The next meeting will be held on September 23 at 3 p.m.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:57 p.m.