

Americans with Disability Advisory Council Minutes

Date: Tuesday, February 2, 2021
Time: 5:30 p.m.
Location: Zoom

Council Members Present:

Matthew Loehman, Chair
Travis Davis, Vice-Chair
Sean King
Kaatje van der Gaarden
Daniel Strones

City Staff Present:

Adam Leuschel, Assistant City Attorney
Jordan Vargas, ADA Coordinator
Crystal Velarde, Minute Taker
Perry Hampel, Construction Manager, DMD
Nick Zubel, Sr. Planner, Office of Emergency Management

Members of the Public

Lisa Digman

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:34 pm with Chair Loehman, Vice Chair Davis and members King, Strones and van der Gaarden.

II. Introductions

All who were present introduced themselves.

III. Public Comment

There was no public comment at this time.

IV. Discussion on COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution in Albuquerque for Individuals with Disabilities and Vulnerable Populations

Mr. Zubel shared plans regarding COVID vaccines for the state of New Mexico. This included the roll out for the vaccine as well as how to register. The roll out phases are as follows: Phase 1A, hospital workers, long-term care facilities (staff and residents), medical first responders, those providing in-home medical care or services, and congregate workers. Phase 1B includes people over 75 years of age, people 16 years or older with health issues, essential workers unable to work from home as well as vulnerable people. Phase 1C will be people over 60 years of age, as well as transportation workers, utility workers, food industry, retail, bank, media, and veterinary workers. Phase 2 encompasses the general public over 16 years of age. These phases are expected to be complete by the summer of 2021. Registration for the COVID vaccine can be done online at <https://cvaccine.nmhealth.org/> or you can call 1-855-600-3453. There are locations throughout the city of Albuquerque. There were also walk throughs at each location to ensure they are ADA accessible. This included parking, entrances, and exits. There will also be a mobile pod to provide vaccines for those homebound individuals. Additionally, maps of the city were shared. On the map it showed which areas of the city were at a higher risk defined by the Center for Disease and Prevention (CDC). This information assisted the City of Albuquerque in determining how many locations distributing the vaccine would be needed in each quadrant of the city while effectively providing equal access for all.

Ms. Vargas is willing to also visit sites and make sure they are ADA accessible.

Mr. Zubel went on to explain the role of the Office of Emergency Management. Which was created to plan and assist Albuquerque citizens in the event of a disaster. These disasters include natural, technological, and human caused. The Office of Emergency Management plans include access and functional needs of the public while providing equal access for all. Key areas included in the Emergency Management Plan are communication and providing the public information, evacuation, and transportation, sheltering and the Americans with Disability Act (ADA). The Emergency Management Plan can be located at <http://www.cabq.gov/office-of-emergency-management/resources/emergency-plans-annexes>.

Ongoing efforts of the Office of Emergency Management include creating a new web-based emergency notification system. This will allow residents to communicate with their office, provide medical information and assign the appropriate resources. They are considering using senior centers for potential shelters or future vaccine sites, Plus, they are working on a program called ABQ CORE, which stands for communities organized to respond to emergencies. The idea is that community members would volunteer to assist during a disaster. The Office of Emergency Management is also launching a pilot program Community Emergency Hub. It will help identify sites in each quadrant of the city where if there is a disaster or emergency people can gather to get information or organize efforts to assist first responders.

There are also other programs such as CERT (Community Emergency Response Team). This training teaches residents how to safely respond after a disaster when first responders are unable to assist everyone. CERT will train people how to use a fire extinguisher, conduct search and rescue operations as a team. Once training is complete, they go through a drill where they practice their new skills. Once they complete the training they are assigned to a team in the area where they live.

Mr. Zubel opened for questions. Questions from the Council included if they could tour the vaccine sites. How the community can provide input into the programs discussed, why there was not an ADA Advisory Board for the Office of Emergency Management. Mr. Zubel is willing to coordinate any tours and help form a subcommittee to address any ADA needs he is also hoping at the Hubs their plans will receive input from the community. Other questions included if any medical information inputted into the website would be protected under HIPPA. Mr. Leuschel explained there are city vendors that make HIPPA compliant software. The Office of Emergency Management could look into using one of those venders.

V. Approval of Agenda

Member Strones moved to approve the agenda, and Vice Chair Davis seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved by other council members.

VI. Approval of January 5, 2021, Minutes

Member Strones moved to approve the minutes, and Member King seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved by other council members.

VII. Discussion on ADA Access in the City of Albuquerque Facilities

Mr. Hampel with the Department of Municipal Development (DMD) oversees city rights-of-way, sidewalks, and streets. He currently has two major projects. One is addressing buckled or defective sidewalks and the other is accessing sidewalks. Last year for the Help Mobility in the City, HUD provided the City with One million dollars (\$1,000,000) which the city used to build about 300 ramps throughout the city. DMD has been given an additional three hundred thousand dollars (\$300,000) which will allow them to build another 100 ramps. Those ramps are currently under construction. All construction done follows the ADA Transition Plan which can be found at <https://www.cabq.gov/americans-with-disabilities-act-advisory-council/ada-transition-plan>.

Mr. Hampel explained there is a City ordinance which requires the adjacent property owner to maintain and repair the sidewalk. DMD will notify any property owner of complaints filed in their office by registered mail. The initial letter gives a generous amount of time to repair the sidewalk. If there is no response DMD will send out a second letter with a smaller window to repair. If there are still no repairs DMD will do them and bill the property owner. If you wish to notify DMD of a sidewalk needing attention please contact 311. DMD is also in charge of all city sidewalk ramps. There are approximately 80,400 corners that would qualify for ADA ramps. Each ramp is about six thousand dollars (\$6,000). DMD does their best to address ramps they receive calls on but do not have the funds to fix all the City sidewalk ramps.

Members of the Council shared concerns regarding sidewalks downtown including the width of the sidewalks. Especially those where there are outside patios limiting access for people in wheelchairs. Mr. Hampel informed the Council there should be at least a three-foot width and DMD can enforce it. Another question was regarding who was responsible for the sidewalk in front of a bank on Lomas. Mr. Hampel recommended contacting City Risk Management to determine responsibility and liability for that specific area.

VIII. Discussion on Disability Placard Parking Spots in Albuquerque

The Council had questions regarding who is responsible for removing handicap parking from downtown. This is an issue Ms. Vargas will check on. Once she has a contact name, she will share it with the Council.

IX. New Business and Announcements from Members

Member Strones informed the Council he and a group of students are trying to revive the Society of Enabled Engineers. He is also looking for leaders living with the disability community that could speak on a zoom call. In May when Member Strones graduated he was featured as an inspirational graduate.

Chair Loehman informed the Council they have two vacancies and Member Strones is up for reappointment. Ms. Velarde will reach out to the Mayors office regarding any applicants.

X. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:57 pm.

Next regularly scheduled ADA Advisory Council Meeting will be Tuesday, March 2, 2021.

Matthew Loehman, Chair

Date