

**CITY OF
ALBUQUERQUE
MEETING MINUTES
AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT ADVISORY
COUNCIL**

Date: Tuesday, March 3, 2020
Time: 5:30 p.m.
Location: City Council Government Center, Room 9081

Council Members Present:

Sean King, Chair
Daniel Strones
Matthew Loehman
Karen Cushnyr

Council Members Not Present:

Adena Martinez
Jessie Calero

City Staff Present:

Adam Leuschel, Assistant City Attorney
Heather Cowan, Interim ADA Coordinator
Crystal Velarde, Minute Taker
Edward Montoya, Paralegal
León Espinoza, Director of Animal Welfare
Adam Ricci, Chief of Field Operations for Animal Welfare

Members of the Public:

Veronica Belerra
Nat Dean

ITEM 1: CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm with Chair King and Members Strones, Loehman and Cushnyr participating.

ITEM 2: APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND FEBRUARY 4, 2020 MEETING MINUTES

Member Loehman moved to approve the agenda, and Member Strones seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved by other council members. Member Strones moved to approve the minutes from the February 4th meeting, and Member Cushnyr seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved by the other council members.

ITEM 3: INTRODUCTIONS

Council members, city staff and members of the public introduced themselves.

ITEM 4: PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment at this time. However, members of the public shared their concerns during pet registration.

ITEM 5: PET REGISTRATION

Shared concerns and suggestions: Members of the ADA Council and members of the public

shared concerns with the pet registration program being discontinued. Member Cushnyr inquired what their plan is to monitor microchipping and rabies vaccinations as well as enforce them. Member Cushnyr also shared her concerns regarding Animal Welfare's plan to protect service animals with people who do not comply. Mr. Montoya asked if they could use the money discussed to provide public service announcements and educate the public. Member Loehman inquired if they could raise the costs by a dollar (\$1.00).

Animal Welfare report: Mr. Ricci, did confirm the program was discontinued and voted on by the City Council in November of 2019 when the ordinance was amended. The Animal Welfare department had done some research on the pet licensing system and found it generated about three-hundred thousand dollars (\$300,000) in revenue but costs the city three-hundred and twenty-seven thousand dollars (\$327,000) to support. Further they reviewed the compliance rate and only twenty percent (20%) of pet owners complied with the registration requirement. When researching they found that cities who raised costs lost compliance. Animal Welfare's current compliance rate is also due to the free licenses the City provided. Mr. Ricci discussed the microchipping and how it will help their department access owner information. This will assist in returning pets to their owners since they rarely have collars when they come into the shelters. They will also be able to update the microchip information in the field or at the facilities. Animal Welfare was enforcing the pet licensing law, but many cases were being dismissed in Metropolitan Court due to a lack of support for enforcing the requirement..

Mr. Ricci also provided examples of other cities who did away with pet licensing such as Indianapolis, San Antonio and Dallas. Animal Welfare departments across the country are moving away from pet licensing as a whole. Pet licensing was put into place long ago to monitor rabies control after outbreaks. Since rabies is no longer as big of a concern, the department is moving forward on more effective and modern ways to monitor pets. Officers are still checking for rabies vaccinations when they are contacting animals and reminding owners. They have also given out around six thousand (6,000) microchips this fiscal year. This allows people to comply free of charge. They are preparing to launch a mobile wellness clinic which will provide more microchips and vaccinations. This will be supported by a \$300,000 (three hundred thousand dollar) grant. Mr. Ricci explained their staff numbers and how they cover the city. He stated the process is designed to be reactionary and he would be happy to discuss them further with Member Cushnyr. However, the City does not have the resources to go door-to-door to make sure everyone is complying. One of the animal welfare programs will be working on getting PSAs to provide more information to the public. It will also enforce vaccines, microchip and spay/neuter directly verses having them all in one. Mr. Ricci shared his department met with Animal Protection of New Mexico to discuss what it would look like to drive information to the public.

ITEM 6: SUMMARY OF RECENT ADA COMPLAINTS

There were no new updates as Ms. Heather Cowan had not received any complaints since her previous update at the last meeting. There was one outside of the city jurisdiction. It was at Sandia Casino and had to do with the closed caption ordinance.

ITEM 7: LETTER TO MAYOR REGARDING HANDICAP PARKING IN RESIDENTIAL NEIGHBOHOODS:

This topic was tabled until the April meeting. The ADA Council would like to invite Mr. Isengard back as well as have someone from the Department of Municipal Development (DMD) for further information. Johnny Chandler with DMD sent Chair King an email informing him there once was a program. He is willing to help any residents, but it is a case by case base.

ITEM 8: NEW BUSINESS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM MEMBERS

Member Strones shared he is in a class that is organizing the Sustainability Expo at UNM and he will provide more updates as they become available. They are currently working to have it on Earth Day. He would also like the council to be present.

Member Loehman moved to amend the November meeting to the 10th of November due to the election, and Member Strones seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved. Member Strones moved to approve the resolution, and Member Lehman seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Mr. Leuschel discussed the City rules regarding attendance for council members. These rules apply to all boards and councils. He also informed the council how they would go about removing a member to make room for more active members. Chair King will reach out to Member Martinez regarding her attendance.

ITEM 10: ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Next regularly scheduled ADA Advisory Council Meeting will be Tuesday, April 7, 2020.

Christopher King, Chair

Date