

City of Albuquerque Americans with Disabilities Act Advisory Council Minutes

Date: Tuesday, December 1, 2020

Time: 5:30 p.m.

Location: Zoom

Council Members Present:

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

City Staff Present:

Adam Leuschel, Assistant City Attorney
Jordan Vargas, ADA Coordinator
Annette Saiz, Minute Taker
Mariela Ruiz-Angel, Albuquerque Community
Safety Department

Council Members Not Present:

Members of the Public:

Megan Goldberg, ASL Interpreter
Alex, ASL Interpreter
Kathy Economy, League of Women Voters

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:37 p.m. by Chair Loehman.

II. INTRODUCTIONS

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

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM NOVEMBER 10, 2020

Member Strones moved to approve the minutes from the November 10, 2020 meeting. The motion was seconded by Member King. The motion was unanimously approved by other council members.

VI. ITEMS FOR COUNCIL DISCUSSION

• **Discussion with Albuquerque Community Safety Department, Mariela Ruiz-Angel**

Mariela Ruiz-Angel shared a power point presentation regarding the Albuquerque Community Safety Department (ACS), "The Right Response at the Right Time". This new department is going to be a cabinet-level department and independent from other departments. ACS is looking to hire

responders that will be social workers, social work background, housing and homelessness specialists, community workers, different type of specialists. The goals are to get the right response at right time, decriminalize mental and behavioral issues and improve access to the broad range of social services. They plan to connect individuals to resources and provide a non-police response to non-violent type of calls. There will be different types of responses to calls depending on the situation, since there are situations that do not need a police officer. For example, for some situations there will be two ACS responders, and some situations would involve a co-response with a firefighter or police officer. Ms. Ruiz-Angel summarized the timeline, graphs, diagram and provided additional details. Afterwards, there was discussion among board members regarding training.

There is a survey that is open until the end of December and Ms. Ruiz-Angel provided website information for the survey www.cabq.gov/ACS and her contact information ACS@cabq.gov.

Mr. Strones reported he is involved with a new organization called the Albuquerque Crisis Intervention Coalition. There is an information session on December 10th at 5:30 and everyone is invited.

Ms. Ruiz-Angel said she would send the PowerPoint presentation to Chair Loehman and Ms. Vargas to distribute. Ms. Ruiz-Angel would love to hear back and hope to give an update in a few months.

- **Follow up discussion on Mayor Tim Keller's presentation at August meeting**

Chair Loehman asked the Council to think about projects to address where there's an opportunity to increase access for individuals with disabilities in public properties and other ADA related issues. Ms. van der Gaarden shared there's a larger group of people who absolutely have no resources and do not qualify for something because of age. Maybe that information can be put on the website. Chair Loehman said the Council can find a way to present the issue for a particular age bracket for individuals with disabilities of no support network. Mr. Strones suggested the board be involved at the onset of new City construction to advise about ADA accessibility for new facilities and new parks. The Council discussed reaching out to DMD, the City department in charge of construction, modification for future and existing buildings, to begin this conversation.

Mr. Strones reported he was talking with the head of the Office of Sustainability and she stated her office is applying for a grant for heat testing to map different areas of the City. She wanted the board to know this because of the over effect of heat on people living with a disability. Mr. Strones will send Mr. Loehman an email with the information if anyone is interested in volunteering.

The members also discussed restroom access, including unisex restrooms, gender specific public restrooms, and family restrooms.

- **Discussion on Wellbeing for People with Disabilities**

Chair Loehman tabled this item.

VII. NEW BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Strones noted the emergency management advisory council proposal that he brought up earlier and why he was talking to Office of Sustainability. He wanted to bring it to their attention so they could help lobby for it. Chair Loehman asked Mr. Strones if he would like to make a presentation at one of the meetings about the Albuquerque Crisis Intervention Coalition. Mr. Strones will talk to the head of the Coalition after the December meeting, and the presentation would be at the next meeting at the earliest.

Chair Loehman asked the Council to send him any agenda items they have for the next meeting.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m. by Chair Loehman.

Next regularly scheduled ADA Advisory Council Meeting will be Tuesday, January 5, 2021.

Matthew Loehman, Chair

Date