

City of Albuquerque
Indicators Progress Commission
Minutes
September 18, 2026
12:00 – 1:00 PM (Virtual Meeting)

Members Present

- Brittany Poss, Chair
- Andrew Estocin, Vice Chair
- Jennifer Frank Pontzer
- Alexis Tappan
- Dede Feldman
- Michael Platenberg

Members Absent

- Anthony Garland
- Robert Stokowy

Others Present

- Miriam Diemer, Associate Director, Department of Technology & Innovation
- Elena Dunn, Member of the Public

MINUTES

1. Call to Order

Vice Chair Estocin, with permission from Chair Poss, called the meeting to order at 12:02 p.m. and conducted the administrative portion of the agenda on her behalf. A roll call confirmed a quorum was present; Commissioner Feldman joined shortly after roll call.

2. Approval of Agenda

A motion to approve the agenda for September 18, 2026 was made and seconded.

Motion approved unanimously.

3. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

A motion to approve the August 21, 2026 meeting minutes was made and seconded.

Motion approved unanimously.

4. Update on 8/29 Goals Forum

Chair Poss reported on the Goals Forum held on August 29, 2026, which the Commission was invited to but had limited insight into or advance notice of. She noted the forum consisted largely of City staff reporting on their work related to each goal, followed by a short Q&A period, and an encouragement for attendees to complete a related survey, which closed in early September. Chair Poss stated she asked City staff how survey results would be analyzed and where they would be housed, but did not receive a clear answer. She expressed frustration that the forum, which the ordinance requires be held every four to five years to review the goals and desired community conditions, did not function as the community discussion it was intended to be and appeared to be poorly publicized; only eight people attended, including Chair Poss, Ms. Diemer, and one other commissioner. Chair Poss recommended that, once the 2026 report is complete, the Commission hold a broader conversation and ask City staff to present their survey findings and vision for the Commission's role going forward.

Commissioner Feldman confirmed that the forum addressed the same goals and desired community conditions the Commission uses in its own work, noting the ordinance requires such a forum every four to five years.

Commissioner Pontzer stated that the short notice was a significant barrier to her attendance and that she was looking forward to participating.

Ms. Diemer stated that she shared the Commission's frustration with the late notice, noting she had asked the Administration about forum plans four to five months in advance and had urged that the Commission be invited despite the forum not being within the IPC's purview to host, given the direct relationship between the forum and the Commission's work on indicators. She stated the City fell short in providing adequate notice and that the forum did not feel like the community gathering it was meant to be.

Vice Chair Estocin stated that he shared the frustration and that it strengthened his motivation to produce a strong 2026 report and to pursue improvements such as a dashboard reporting model.

5. Review of Subcommittee Indicator Recommendations for Goals 5–8

Chair Poss reminded the Commission that subcommittees had proposed indicators for each goal, which were compiled into a survey for full-Commission feedback. The Commission completed review of the first four goals at the August meeting and reviewed the remaining four goals (Goals 5 through 8) at this meeting, with the aim of finalizing indicators in time to produce the 2026 report.

6. Discussion of Indicators for the 2026 Report, by Goal

Goal 5 – Environmental Protection: The Commission discussed indicators for protecting Albuquerque's natural environment. There was broad agreement on indicators including air quality standard attainment, inclusion of green space in community planning, and park spending per capita. For the desired community condition that heat impacts are reduced, the Commission discussed replacing or supplementing the current "number of trees on city-owned land" indicator, noting concerns that a tree count does not measure impact and that limiting the measure to city-owned land is too narrow. The Commission agreed to prioritize a tree canopy percentage measure, with a count of trees retained as a fallback if canopy data is unavailable. Commissioner Feldman proposed heat-related emergency room visits and hospitalizations as an additional measure of heat impact; Commissioner Pontzer noted this data may not be readily available at the city level and suggested the Commission look ahead to developing impact-based measures (e.g., effects on people, animals, crops, and wildlife) using state-level data as a proxy in the interim. For the desired community condition that man-made impacts are minimized, Commissioner Estocin and Commissioner Feldman questioned whether the proposed decarbonization and climate change mitigation score indicator was too broad and possibly duplicative of the City's greenhouse gas emissions (carbon footprint) indicator used elsewhere in the goal. Commissioner Pontzer explained that the two indicators serve related but distinct purposes: the mitigation score reflects City policy actions relative to peer cities, while the greenhouse gas emissions figure reflects on-the-ground outcomes. After discussion, the Commission agreed to retain both the desired community condition and its indicator as originally proposed, noting the interrelated nature of the environmental desired community conditions and indicators, and agreed to note in the report where such relationships exist. The Commission approved Goal 5 as presented, with the changes discussed, by unanimous vote.

Goal 6 – Economic Vitality: The Commission discussed indicators related to a vital, diverse, inclusive, equitable, and sustainable economy. For the desired community condition that businesses are thriving and supported, the Commission agreed to reframe the existing indicator (number of businesses closed) as a positive measure, adopting the percentage of businesses still operating after five years, consistent with a suggestion from the subcommittee. Given time constraints, the Commission agreed to finalize the underlying data source for this indicator outside the meeting rather than delay further discussion. For the desired community condition that the economy is diverse, the Commission discussed revising the "number of industries" indicator, noting that industry count alone does not capture diversity; the Commission agreed to use number of employment sectors, including both public and private sector employment, in place of the original indicator. Median household income was retained without objection. The Commission approved Goal 6 with the changes discussed by unanimous vote. Ms. Diemer noted that, because the Commission is revising some indicators from those used in prior reports, Chair Poss and her team would need latitude to substitute the closest available data if the specific data requested cannot be found; the Commission agreed to this approach.

Goal 7 – Community and Cultural Engagement: The Commission discussed indicators for resident engagement in the City's community and culture. For the desired community condition that the community is engaged and empowered to influence policy, the Commission agreed to use voting rates in municipal elections, with a suggestion from Commissioner Platenberg to compare municipal turnout to turnout in other types of elections for additional context. For the desired community condition that cultural opportunities are available and accessible, the Commission discussed narrowing the proposed indicator (count of city-sponsored events) to events hosted specifically by the Arts and Culture Department, noting that many city-sponsored events are athletic rather than cultural in nature. For the desired community condition that community activities are available for people of all ages, the Commission discussed using community and senior center attendance (e.g., via card-swipe data), distinguishing drop-in activities from longer-term enrollment-based programs, and agreed this would be tracked as a year-over-year trend. The Commission approved Goal 7 as indicated, with the changes discussed, by unanimous vote.

Goal 8 – Government Excellence and Effectiveness: The Commission discussed indicators for ethical, transparent, and responsive government. Chair Poss noted that several desired community conditions under this goal rely on City survey data not currently available, and proposed retaining the most recent survey-based indicator for the desired community condition that the City is responsive and accessible, with a note in the report that the figure will be updated when new survey data becomes available; the Commission agreed with this approach in place of using 311 case closeout rates, which commissioners felt were not a reliable measure. The Commission discussed and supported using What Works Cities certification status as an indicator, with Ms. Diemer confirming the City has not sought certification; commissioners, including Commissioner Feldman, expressed support for using the indicator to encourage the City to pursue certification, and noted that peer/cohort cities used in past reports could provide a useful comparison. Bond rating and language access training indicators were retained without objection. The Commission approved Goal 8 as indicated, with the changes discussed, by unanimous vote.

7. Next Steps: Data Collection and Draft Assessment Matrices and Summaries

Chair Poss reported that her team is currently working on data collection for Goals 1 through 4 and will begin work on Goals 5 through 8. She suggested subcommittees meet again before October to discuss a plan for drafting report sections. Ms. Diemer recommended that one subcommittee (proposed to be Chair Poss's) draft its section first and share it as a model for the other subcommittees, since no prior written report follows the same format. Chair Poss agreed to work with Ms. Diemer to develop a draft outline, to be shared asynchronously with other subcommittees within approximately one to two weeks, consistent with the Open Meetings Act.

8. Public Comment

One member of the public, Elena Dunn, was present. Commissioners thanked Ms. Dunn for her work supporting the subcommittee's efforts.

9. Recap of Action Items

- Subcommittees will meet again before the October meeting to discuss drafting plans for their assigned report sections.
- Chair Poss and Ms. Diemer will develop a draft outline for report sections and share it with other subcommittees within one to two weeks.
- Staff and Chair Poss's team will continue researching data sources for the revised indicators discussed for Goals 5 through 8, including tree canopy data, business longevity data, and employment sector data.

10. Items for Next Meeting

The October meeting will include subcommittee report-outs on progress drafting their assigned sections of the 2026 Indicators Progress Report.

11. Other Business

No other business was raised.

12. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Feldman and seconded by Commissioner Platenberg. Motion approved unanimously. The meeting adjourned at approximately 1:00 p.m.