

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT ADVISORY COUNCIL MINUTES

Tuesday, June 6, 2017 at 5:30pm at City Council Committee Room, 9th Floor, Suite 9081,
One Civic Plaza NW, Albuquerque, NM

Members Present: Peggy Chong, Terri O'Hare, Karen Cushnyr

Members Absent: Sheenie Smith, Lisa McNiven

Staff Members Present: Annabelle Romero - Office of Diversity and ADA, Keith Reed - DMD

Other members of the Public: Leslie Romero - Wilson Engineering, Elizabeth Wagner, NM Center on Law and Poverty, Ken Romig - Dekker, Perich, Sabatini

Call to Order and Introductions: No quorum was met so the meeting was held as an informal information session.

Comments from the Public and Presentations

Elizabeth Wagner spoke regarding the font size on an upcoming city ballot for the Healthy Workforce initiative. Aside from political positions, she requested the ADA Council's support in the effort to make the point size of the type on the ballot readable and accessible to all. The Council supported this aspect of the issue without taking a side on the content of the ordinance.

Leslie Romero of Wilson Engineering gave a brief update on the NMDOT ADA Transition Plan and passed out handouts with Powerpoint screen content. There are 2 more public workshops left for this project. Leslie Romero apparently let us know that a public comment meeting for the transition plan would be on June 14th @ 6pm at Central and Unser. The PDF flyer with all four meetings and dates/locations was obtained after the first of the workshop meetings.

Ken Romig and another DPS staffer are handling the redesign and construction of an area of Civic Plaza with a new fountain and brought the plans for access to the raised deck and playground area to the board for discussion. They have a 60 ft. long, straight ramp to one side of the elevated area for wheelchair access. Comments were made about the lack of shade covering and metal materials of the playground equipment in terms of heat and injury for children. There did not seem to be alternates to these materials provided by the DPS consultants.

ADA Council Member Discussions:

Peggy Chong spoke about the punch cards on bus transit, and the app the Transit Dept. developed which is not accessible for blind, and low vision riders to use. These comments were forwarded to the Transit Dept. director again, Bruce Rizzeri. Discussion was also mentioned regarding aggressive pets on transit buses and their potential to create behavior problems for trained service and guide dogs and their owners.

Karen Cushnyr spoke about her recent experience at the ABQ Sunport and lack of 'relief areas' for service dogs. This is a requirement under the regulations that apply to US airports and Karen followed up with the Airport Facilities Taskforce to participate to raise awareness of enforcing guidelines that apply to airports for those with service and guide dogs. This looks to be an ongoing process for Karen and there may be more updates in the future on her progress with this issue.

Membership applications being delayed: This is still a problem with city staff handling Boards and Commissions. Two people are waiting to hear back on membership: Daniel Strone and Lindsay Sloane. Roy deHaven and Jane Volkmer have also applied since June and we look forward to word of their application progress.

Adjournment:

With no quorum, the meeting was informally ended at 6:40 pm.