

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

Date: Tuesday, October 2, 2018
Time: 5:30 p.m.
Location: City Council Government Center, Room 9081

Board Members Present:

Terri O'Hare, Chair
Daniel Strones
Lisa McNiven
Karen Cushnyr (participated by telephone)

City Staff:

Torri Jacobus, Managing Assistant City Attorney for Civil Rights Division
Tyson Hummel, Assistant City Attorney and outgoing ADA Advisory Board Coordinator
Patricia Padrino, Assistant City Attorney and incoming ADA Advisory Board Coordinator
Nick Bullock, Assistant City Attorney and temporary ADA Advisory Board Attorney
Bernie Toon, Director of Transit Department
Danyel Mayer, Paralegal

Members of the Public:

Pamela Stafford, Public Policy Director of ARC of NM
Thomas Sanchez, Director of VAWM

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Chair O'Hare at approximately 5:38 p.m. with four members participating. Member Sacheen Smith was not in attendance at the meeting.

ITEM 1: APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

Member Strones moved to approve the Agenda, and it was seconded by Member McNiven. The motion passed and the Agenda was approved by a vote of 4-0. Chair O'Hare moved to approve the meeting minutes from the July 10, 2018, August 7, 2018, and September 11, 2018 meetings. The motion was seconded by Member Strones and so the minutes from the July 10, 2018, August 7, 2018, and September 11, 2018 meetings were approved by a vote of 4-0.

ITEM 2: INTRODUCTIONS

Chair O'Hare asked that everyone in attendance take a moment to introduce themselves.

ITEM 3: PUBLIC COMMENT

Public comment was received Thomas Sanchez, Director of VAWM (Victoria's Advocacy Wellness and Mindfulness) who after several attempts has been successful in having the City put in a work order to replace the braille placards at City bus stops along Central Avenue. The braille placards help the blind identify the bus stops, and the City had removed many of the placards during A.R.T. construction along Central Avenue. Mr. Sanchez explains he began working with the City when A.R.T. construction began because he noticed the City was doing nothing to let blind community members know when a bus stop had been closed for construction during A.R.T. construction. Mr. Sanchez explains he was standing at a bus stop waiting for a bus only to later learn from a passerby that the bus stop was closed. Other than someone telling him, there was no way for Mr. Sanchez to know the bus stop was closed. Several buses went by while he stood there waiting for the bus and not one of them stopped to tell Mr. Sanchez that the stop was closed.

ITEM 4: GUEST SPEAKER BERNIE TOON

Guest speaker Bernie Toon, Director of the City's Transit Department, introduced himself and his division. Mr. Toon explained that he worked for the transit department in Washington for about 37 years before coming to New Mexico to do campaign work. Mr. Toon has been with the City for about six months now. Mr. Toon gave the board his "Who's on the Bus?" talk which includes several statistics on ridership within the City. In the last four months ridership has been up 4%, which is the first increase since 2013, and he attributes the uptick in ridership to gas prices. He also noted that ridership was up due to some recent service expansions the City made, and he says more expansions are planned to take place after the A.R.T. project is complete. Of the City's bus riders: 67% are a designated minority, 84% have an average income of less than \$35,000/year, 52% are employed, 20% are unemployed, 26% are retired or disabled, 75% do not have access to a car at all, 32% use the bus to commute to work, 18% use the bus to go shopping, 18% use the bus to go to school, 12% use the bus to go to medical appointments, 11% are

tourists visiting the City, 83% of the riders walk to the bus stop to catch the bus, and 9% travel by bike and use the bus to complete part of their trip.

The City recently secured the remaining \$75 million in funding from the Federal Transit Administration for the A.R.T. project. The buses that were ordered by the previous administration have been a challenge. When the buses were purchased, they were the only bus of their type. The buses are a 60 foot articulated bus which means it has an accordion in the middle. The buses are 100% electric and very ecologically friendly. The new technology has caused lots of frustration due to the many quality control issues that have been identified. The City is working with the bus manufacturer to resolve the remaining quality control issues, but it seems like there is a new surprise every week with the buses. There is an issue with the buses holding a charge for as long as the builder specified they would, and now the manufacturer will be floating the cost of building three extra charging stations along the A.R.T. line. Driver training and final testing of the technology at the bus stations are in progress.

Mr. Toon explains he is looking into creating a group from the disability community to advise on the A.R.T. project, before the program goes live, to help the City go through the bus stations to see how it is doing on ADA compliance.

Recently the Mayor created a downtown safety district that runs from Lead to Tijeras then 6th street to just the other side of I-25. The purpose of the district is to answer the suggestion of downtown business owners who are focused on crime and wanting some assistance dealing with the homeless community. The Mayor's approach to these issues is interesting because it is not just a police based approach. There is a headquarters at the Alvarado Transit Center where there will be several representatives from City departments (APD, Fire and Rescue, Transit, and Family and Community Services). The headquarters will be open by the end of the year and it will have a public entrance. This will be a real asset for downtown, and there has already been positive feedback from the community on this project.

Finally, the Transit Department's biggest issue right now is driver shortages. The City is looking at salary structures to see if raises can be given to make City bus drivers' pay more competitive. The City loses drivers to truck driving and other companies that offer better pay.

ITEM 5: UPDATE FOR MEMBERS ON SERVICE ANIMAL ISSUES AND PROJECTS

Member Cushnyr led discussion on the airport's recently unveiled relief area for animals. Member Cushnyr explains that all of the media outlets have advertised the relief area to the public as a place that is welcome for pets when it is in fact a place for service animals. The relief area was named "pet relief area" instead of "service animal relief area" which also gives the impression that this a pet friendly area. Member Cushnyr would like to see the airport update its message to explain that the airport's relief area is for ADA service animals and not a place to encourage people to bring their pets. FAA rules require all animals to be in carriers after going through the security checkpoint, and they must stay in those carriers until they reach their final destinations. This rule needs to be enforced so that service dogs are not harassed or damaged while passing through the airport. Member Cushnyr also commented on the ambassador dogs at the airport. These dogs are in high traffic areas meeting airport passengers. Member Cushnyr has been trying to get a meeting with Doug, the head person for the ambassador dog program at the airport. Most of the ambassador dogs are well trained, but there are some that are not and their handlers do not seem to care. Member Cushnyr is pushing for ambassador dogs to not be allowed in high traffic areas where they may come into direct contact with service animals who are working and may become distracted or even be harassed by the ambassador dogs. Mr. Hummel states he will be happy to interface with the City's airport attorney Peter Pierotti to see what they are able to come up with. Member Cushnyr says that is fine.

ITEM 6: CULTURAL SERVICES SITE VISITS UPDATE

Member Strones gave an update on the board's recent visit to Tingley Beach. Member Strones noted some compliance issues during his visit but the staff at the facility seemed receptive to the board's input. Chair O'Hare gave an update on the site visit to the Aquarium/Bio-Park. Chair O'Hare described displays at the Aquarium that protrude out – some at eye level - that create an issue of liability. Chair O'Hare is very happy with the

Aquarium/Bio-Park's willingness to accept and resolve the board's identified issues. The final visit will be to the zoo, and Chair O'Hare is working to get GovTV to join the board on its site visit to the zoo so that it can film the visit and use it as a program that would run on channel 16. Mr. Hummel reports that he believes this request was approved by the Mayor's office today.

ITEM 7: BOARD MEMBERSHIP

Chair O'Hare reports that the board has two openings since Peggy Chong moved out of state and Michael Renaud resigned from the board mid-term. If Mr. Renaud decides to give a written explanation as to why he resigned from the board, Chair O'Hare will pass that information along to the other board members. Member Cushnyr asks if there are any new members waiting to join the board. Chair O'Hare thought there may be two people but she will need to check with Helen.

ITEM 8: NEW CITY ADA COORDINATOR

Tyson Hummel the board's current ADA board coordinator is going to be replaced by Patricia Padrino. Tyson Hummel and Torri Jacobus are working with Ms. Padrino to get her up to speed.

ITEM 9: 2018-2019 RESOLUTION ADA ADVISORY BOARD MEETING DATES

Chair O'Hare explains the resolution lays out the meetings for next year. Chair O'Hare is going to get with Shannon Triplett to get this document distributed to the board members so that it can be reviewed.

ITEM 10: NEW BUSINESS

Member Strones inquired about the status of someone looking in to the reinstallation of street lights at the downtown intersections the board discussed at a previous meeting. Mr. Hummel thought maybe former ADA board attorney Bill Zarr was going to look into this but isn't sure. Mr. Hummel believes the department of DMD would be the best party to direct this request to. Mr. Hummel said he would start a conversation on this issue with Paula Dodge-Kwan, the Engineering Division Manager in DMD, and report back to the board.

Member McNiven inquired about the status ADA compliance issues at voting sites. Chair O'Hare started a conversation with someone at the County to see about resolving ADA compliance issues at the City's voting sites, and then she received a separate email from someone in the same office stating that all the voting sites had been inspected and are ADA compliant. Chair O'Hare does not think the information about all of the voting sites being ADA compliant is correct and she will continue working on this issue and she will provide the board with updates. Chair O'Hare also heard from Ethan Watson at the City Clerk's office that the County may be taking over the voting process. Mr. Hummel said he would make an inquiry into voting sites being inspected for ADA compliance and report back to the board.

Member Cushnyr asked Chair O'Hare if she was able to obtain any more information on the disability summit and if the board was going to be able to have a table at the summit. Chair O'Hare says the Attorney General's office said the board couldn't do any presenting but it could have a table. Chair O'Hare knew that everyone had busy schedules so she made the call and advised Jenny that the board would be passing on being at this event and thanked her. Chair O'Hare explained the board could have printed out flyers, but she felt it would be best to wait for another event to do that at. Member Cushnyr stated she would have rearranged her travel plans had she had more notice so that the table at the summit could be manned.

Member Strones announced that the Society of Enabled Engineers at the University of New Mexico is starting a weekly enable support group on Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m. in the Student Union building. The meeting room changes every week so if you go to the information desk on the main floor they will tell you where the meeting is.

ITEM 11: ADJOURNMENT. NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED FOR NOVEMBER 6, 2018

At approximately 6:58 p.m. a motion was made by Member Cushnyr to adjourn the meeting, and it was seconded by Member McNiven. The motion was approved by a vote of 4-0.

Terri O'Hare, Chair

Date: _____