

Americans with Disability Advisory Council (ADAAC) Minutes

Date: Monday, December 4, 2023

Time: 5:30 p.m.

Location: Zoom

Council Members Present:

Manuel Baca, Chair
Roger Robb, Vice Chair
Olivia Fadul
Kerry Houlihan

City Staff Present:

Leigh Brunner, ADAAC Attorney
John Craig, Director of General Services
Amanda Trujillo, Executive Assistant
Alex Colbert-Taylor, ADA Title II Coordinator

Council Members Not Present:

All members were present

Members of the Public:

Renee, ASL Interpreter
Santana, ASL Interpreter
Jesse Armijo, NM Tap
Amanda Caserta
Anonymous member of the public presenting as
“Tech Support (EXT)”

I. Call to Order

- a. The meeting was called to order at 5:42 p.m. by Chair Baca.

II. Approval of the Agenda

- b. Vice-chair Robb moved to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Council Member Houlihan. Other council members unanimously approved the motion.

III. Approval of Minutes from November 13, 2023 Meeting

- c. Vice-chair Robb moved to approve the November 13, 2023 minutes. The motion was seconded by Council Member Fadul. Other council members unanimously approved the motion.

IV. Introductions

- d. All board members, and City employees who were present introduced themselves. Jesse Armijo and Amanda Caserta introduced themselves.

V. Public Comments

- a. Amanda Caserta announced that she has applied to join the Advisory Council.

VI. Presentation by Jesse Armijo on NM TAP

- a. Jesse Armijo presented a slide show on New Mexico Technology Assistance Program, or “NM TAP”, a program under the NM Governor’s Commission on Disability. The program is federally funded and designed to help New Mexicans with disabilities learn about, use, and borrow, and acquire a variety of assistive or adaptive technologies. Specific examples he described include adaptive and ergonomic keyboards for people who lost the use of their hands, or communication devices for individuals who lost the ability to speak.
- b. NM TAP provides individualized assistance, working with a client or their representative (councilor, teacher, therapist, family member, etc.) to identify the individual’s specific need and goals, and find devices specifically suited to their requirements. The agency can narrow

down to just a few targeted solutions for an individual, out of the “thousands and thousands” of assistive devices available, to help prevent “device fatigue” or the experience of being overwhelmed by too many choices.

- c. Individuals can borrow devices from NM TAP for free, and trial them at home for up to six weeks.
- d. For individuals with autism or other sensory disabilities, the agency has a lot of sensory equipment. Some weighted equipment. Compression vests, but then also some sound sensory stuff.
- e. The agency also works with Adelante Development Center on device reutilization, to distribute donated durable medical equipment.
- f. Roger Robb drew attention to the NM Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing’s telecommunications distribution program, which provides communication devices to individuals to keep.

VII. Discussion and vote to schedule retreat for January 26, 2024

- a. Chair Baca moved to schedule an ADA Advisory Council retreat on January 26, 2024. Vice-chair Robb seconded the motion. Other council members unanimously approved the motion.
- b. Discussion between Chair Baca, Alex Colbert-Taylor, and Mr. Craig about the possibility of scheduling a meeting with the mayor prior to retreat and purpose of such a meeting. Chair Baca stated that he had wanted to schedule such a meeting because “because we didn't have Alex. And we didn't have you guys, you and Amanda helping us out. We were lost in limbo somewhere. ... we were frustrated and angry, at least I was, that we weren't going anywhere.”
- c. Chair Baca emphasized that his priority is filling out the Advisory Council with additional board members.
- d. Retreat will likely be hybrid format, with some members present in person and others participating by zoom.

IX. Adjournment

- a. Meeting adjourned at 6:09 p.m.

Next regularly scheduled ADA Advisory Council Meeting will be Friday, January 5, 2024

Manuel Baca, Chair

Date