

Americans with Disability Advisory Council (ADAAC) Minutes

Date: Tuesday, March 7, 2023

Time: 5:30 p.m.

Location: Zoom

Council Members Present:

Manuel Baca, Chair
Roger Robb, Vice Chair
Olivia Fadul
Rand Lara Porter-Park

City Staff Present:

Leigh Brunner, ADAAC Attorney
Alison Eye, Minute Taker
Crystal Velarde, Office of Civil Rights
Santana Chavez, ASL Interpreter
Rebecca De Santis, ASL Interpreter

Council Members Not Present:

Deann S. Griego
Kerry Houlihan

Members of the Public:

None

I. Call to Order

- a. The meeting was called to order at 5:33 p.m. by Manuel Baca.

II. Approval of Minutes from February 7, 2023 Meeting

- a. Vice Chair Robb moved to approve the February 7, 2023 minutes. The motion was seconded by Member Porter-Park. Other council members unanimously approved the motion.

III. Introductions

- a. All board member who were present introduced themselves.

IV. Approval of Agenda

- a. Chair Baca moved to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Vice Chair Robb. Other council members unanimously approved the motion.

V. Public Comments

- a. Chair Baca asked if there were any members of the public in attendance. No one at this time, so Mr. Baca will hold off for public comments till later.

VI. Discuss Draft Letter to Mayor Keller

- a. Chair Baca asked if everyone had received the draft letter he had sent out via email.
- b. Chair Baca did share both letters on zoom so all could see them. Letter drafted by Mr. Baca and letter drafted by Porter-Parker.
- c. Members discussed changes and additions to the letter that are still needed before a letter is sent to the Mayor.

VII. Discuss Website Bio's

- a. Chair Baca asked if any Members had started writing their bio's.
- b. Chair Baca set a deadline for everyone to have their bio's done by the next board meeting.
- c. The council discussed what should be included and how long the bio should be. Chair Baca suggested that the bio should have some personal information, a little bit of professional background, and why you chose to serve on the council. He suggested that the bio be under

200 words and a head shot photo would be nice to include. If members preferred they can do a video instead and suggested that it be about 2 to 3 minutes long.

VIII. Discuss City's support for ADAAC

- a. Chair Baca turned the meeting over to Crystal Velarde, who then introduced Amanda Trujillo and John Craig from the City of Albuquerque's newly formed General Services Department.
- b. John Craig introduced himself, spoke a little bit about his background, the General Service Department and advised that the Mayor had asked that the ADAAC be moved under the General Services Department. The Mayor felt this would be a good fit as this department will be in charge of City building's being ADA compliant, and this department could work collaboratively with the council to make improvements around the city.
- c. Mr. Craig advised that Amanda Trujillo would be taking over the duties that Crystal Velarde is currently doing for ADAAC.
- d. Mr. Craig stated that hiring a new coordinator for ADAAC was something that they are currently working on and is a priority for them. The coordinator would work directly with Mr. Craig and Ms. Trujillo.
- e. Mr. Craig did suggest that if the council would like to set up a meeting with the Mayor they would be happy to coordinate that meeting. He also suggested that it might be nice to have the council present an update at a City Counsel meeting.
- f. Mr. Craig was asked by the council for his input regarding the letter they were drafting to the Mayor. He did recommend that the letter be very clear about what they were asking for from the Mayor and the City.
- g. Mr. Craig also stated that they would be interested to know how the new coordinator for ADAAC could better serve their needs and the community moving forward.

IX. Discuss Ideas for Meeting Guests

- a. Chair Baca thought it would be good to invite members of APD, MDC, the Fire Chief and others in the City to discuss how they currently interact with members of the public with disabilities while doing their jobs to see how they can help each other.
- b. Member Porter-Park discussed her disabilities and that she wears a watch that has a recording that can be played that tells about her disabilities as her disabilities could be viewed as something else.
- c. Vice Chair Robb spoke about his work helping to educate APD and MDC about individuals with hearing loss. He stated that he would be happy to be a liaison to try to get people from these departments he has worked with to participate as a guest at future meetings.

X. New Business and Announcements from Members

- a. Chair Baca asked if the board had any new business or announcements.
- b. Vice Chair Robb shared that he is going to Las Cruces to do some education on hearing loss with the Police Department. He said this had taken 2yrs to make it happen and he is excited it is happening.
- c. Member Fadul wanted everyone to know about a current state legislation bill at Santa Fe for closed captioning in buildings. She said she would forward the newsletter that discussed this bill.
- d. Crystal advised everyone that the City of Albuquerque does have a City Ordinance regarding closed captioning having to be on any television that is in a public area.
- e. Vice Chair Robb also advised that there is a first responders bill that is proposing to create a data base for individuals with disabilities so that first responders could access that information.

XI. Public Comments

- a. Chair Baca asked again if there were any members of the public in attendance. Crystal stated no members of the public were in attendance.

XII. Adjournment

- a. Meeting adjourned at 6:22 p.m.

Next regularly scheduled ADA Advisory Council Meeting will be Tuesday, April 4, 2023.

Manuel Baca, Chair

Date