



Minutes of the City of Albuquerque Human Rights Board

Regular Meeting

Tuesday, February 17, 2015

Office of Diversity and Human Rights

2nd Floor, Suite 201, City Hall

One Civic Plaza NW, Albuquerque, NM 87103

1. Call to Order

Mr. Enrique Aguilar, Vice Chair, presiding over the meeting in the absence of a Chair, called the meeting to order at 4:07 p.m. (MST) on Tuesday, February 17, 2015.

Board Members Present:

Mr. Enrique Aguilar

Mr. Robert Poyourow

Ms. Dusadee Sarangarm

Ms. Hwa Soon (Sue) Thorson

Board Members Absent:

Elaine Miller

Gary Williams

STAFF PRESENT

Nick Bullock, Board and Assistant City Attorney

Ms. Annabelle J. Romero, Deputy Director, Office of Diversity and Human Rights

Shannon Triplett, Office of Diversity and Human Rights

Peter Hafford, Office of Diversity and Human Rights

PUBLIC PRESENT:

UNM Journalism Student

2. A motion to approve agenda for February 17, 2015 was made and seconded. Approval of agenda passed unanimously.
3. A motion to approve the minutes of the last meeting on Tuesday, November 18, 2014 was made and seconded. Approval of the minutes passed unanimously.

4. Report from Dayna Crawford, Deputy Director, City of Albuquerque Transit Department (Transit).

Dayna read a proposed update of Transit's joyriding policy which appears in Transit's Motor Coach Operator (MCO) manual. Transit is proposing that the definition for joyriding be more clearly defined by stating the policy is "uninhibited or unauthorized joyriding." An explanation of intent for drivers and the public will be provided. The way the policy will work is that any passenger will be allowed three (3) one way trips before being asked to leave the bus. Ms. Dusadee Sarangarm asked what happens when an individual stays on the bus for one full roundtrip (or three one way trips) and gets on another bus. Ms. Crawford responded that the MCO would then provide assistance to the passenger by asking if they could help assist them with their destination.

Mr. Robert Poyourow asked whether the new policy would have addressed the incident that occurred where the MCO was assaulted by the passenger when the passenger was not let back on the bus. Ms. Crawford's response was that Transit is in the process of updating the entire manual and as sections are completed they will be implemented. Mr. Poyourow stated that the guidance should be implemented without waiting for the entire manual to be completed.

There was discussion regarding what to call the policy, a few suggestions were made such as "no free riding," "excessive riding," "unpaid riding." Ms. Sue Thorson asked city attorney Nick Bullock what he thought it should be and he responded that he preferred "prohibitive excess riding." Other questions were asked such as whether a passenger is allowed to get on the same bus if they pay and the answer was yes as long as they pay for each trip. Ms. Crawford went on to explain that if an individual has exceeded the number of times allowed on one route, the MCO notifies the passenger he needs to get off the bus and calls dispatch to file a report. It was suggested that an example of "prohibitive excess riding" should be added into the policy for more clarification.

Vice Chair, Enrique Aguilar, asked board member Poyourow if he thought it [the new policy] would help and Mr. Poyourow responded that the policy may be problematic but it might work if the MCO is more proactive in helping passengers. Vice Chair Aguilar asked why this is an issue and Ms. Crawford's response was, "It is because the buses are packed and there needs to be room for paying customers trying to get to their jobs etc." Ms. Sarangarm stated she feels it is a step in the right direction. The board asked for an estimated time of release of the policy and Ms. Crawford responded that Transit is starting training on March 16, 2015 and the policy will be posted on all buses. Ms. Crawford will let the Office of Diversity and Human Rights know when the policy will be implemented.

5. Approval of the 2015 Human Rights Board Resolution passed unanimously. Ms. Sarangarm asked if telephonic participation was allowed under the Open Meetings Act. Mr. Bullock said he would check with the Attorney General's Open Meetings Act but didn't think there was anything to prohibit it.

6. Director's Report -- Annabelle Romero, in behalf of Gabe Campos, presented a summary on cases handled by the Office of Diversity and Human Rights (ODHR), a list of projects/collaboration and training/events. She explained the type of services ODHR is doing and what each reference means. She provided a sampling of cases that have been completed. Ms. Romero asked the members if they wished to continue receiving individual copies of the excel spreadsheet on cases and the board asked to have one copy that could be shared with everyone at each regular meeting.
7. Public Comment -- The Board did not receive notification of public comment.
8. New Business/Announcements -- Sue -- asked if anyone had heard about sexual harassment issues with the city fire department. Ms. Romero responded that nothing has been reported through Human Rights. Ms. Triplett offered that she had seen a pre-determination on a similar issue but could not speak about it because of confidentiality. She was asked to explain what a pre-determination was and she offered to have city attorney Tyson Hummell explain the process which he did.

Vice Chair Aguilar asked that Dr. Pepper and a snack be provided at regular board meetings.

Vice Chair Aguilar asked if anyone on the board was aware of the city Parks and Recreation Department's proposal to take preexisting trails and make them ADA compliant. He added that he had heard the Sierra Club together with Councilor Benton was "hijacking" the project to stop all proceedings at the next City Council. Mr. Aguilar was asked if anyone knew what the Sierra Club's complaint was about.

Mr. Robert Poyourow said it is Richard Barrish who is a self-appointed representative for the Rio Grande Chapter of the Sierra Club who wants absence of any development to the Bosque. Mr. Poyourow added that the community was not consulted before bulldozers started the project and they have asked to stop construction until they can review more closely.

9. Adjournment -- There being no further business to be brought before the Board, acting Chair Enrique Aguilar adjourned the meeting. The next Regular Meeting of the Board is scheduled for Tuesday, May 19, 2015 at 4:00 p.m. at the City of Albuquerque's Office of Diversity and Human Rights, at City Hall, One Civic Plaza NW, 2nd floor, Albuquerque, NM. The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

SUBMITTED:

READ AND APPROVED:

Mr. Gabriel Campos
Secretary to the Board

Enrique Aguilar
Acting Chairperson of the Board

Date: Tuesday, August 18, 2015