



City of Albuquerque

Timothy M. Keller, Mayor

Greater Albuquerque Active Transportation Committee (GAATC) & Greater Albuquerque Recreational Trails Committee (GARTC) Task Force

Meeting Minutes

September 22, 2026 | 5 - 7 pm

- **Call to order**

Chair Carver called the meeting to order at 5:03 pm.

- **Introductions**

Task Force Members Present

- Adrian Carver, GAATC, Chair
- Alex Applegate, GAATC
- Sebastian Bentley, GAATC
- Dustin Berg, GARTC arrived at 5:08 pm
- Melinda Montoya, GAATC
- Mariah Tallent, GARTC
- Nancy Tankersley, GARTC

Staff Members Present

- Alan Armijo, Public Boards, Commissions, and Committees Advisory Task Force Chair
- Andrew Coon, City Legal
- Valerie Hermanson, Department of Municipal Development (DMD)
- Forest Replogle, Parks and Recreation Department (PRD)
- Cheryl Somerfeldt, Parks and Recreation Department (PRD)
- Cristobal Rocha, Office of the City Clerk

- **Review and approve meeting agenda.**

- Chair Carver asked the members if it was OK to move public comment before their discussion and asked if there were any objections. There were no objections.

- **Review and Approve August 18, 2026, meeting minutes**

- Motion: Member Applegate moved to approve the August 18, 2026, meeting minutes
- Second: Member Montoya
- Yes: Member Applegate, Member Berg, Member Montoya, Member Tallent, Member Tankersley, Member Carver
- No: 0
- Absent: 0

- Abstained: Member Bentley
- **Motion approved: 6-0-1.**
- **City Boards, Committees, and Commissions Overview.** Cristobal Rocha, Office of the City Clerk, City of Albuquerque.
 - Cristobal presented an overview of the City's Boards, Committees, and Commissions process, explaining §2-6-1-1 et seq. establishes core boards and commissions and the step-by-step process for when someone applies to serve, which typically takes 4-6 weeks for appointments once a candidate is recommended. He detailed the application and review process, noting that the boards and commissions team has grown from 3 to 7 staff members, allowing for faster vacancy filling. Cristobal also covered meeting protocols including hybrid meeting procedures, social media decorum guidelines, and proper conduct expectations for board members, including restrictions on accepting gifts or cash. Presentation attached.
- **Overview of Public Boards, Commissions, and Committees Advisory Task Force 2025 Findings and Recommendations Report.** This report included the recommendation to merge GAATC & GARTC. Alan Armijo, Task Force Chair, Public Boards, Commissions, and Committees Advisory Task Force
 - Alan explained the process behind reviewing City Boards and Commissions, noting that the task force assessed various boards based on factors like meeting frequency, quorum presence, and purpose similarity. The task force recommended merging two specific boards due to perceived similarities in their functions, but emphasized that the final decision rests with the City Council. Alan clarified that the recommendation was not based on comparing vacancy rates or turnover between boards, but rather on the functional similarities between the two boards in question.
 - Link to report: <https://cabq.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=F&ID=15052058&GUID=81E5ED8D-DB1B-4CA1-865C-E0AA5D2BB3F3>
- **GARTC Ordinance Review.** Cheryl Somerfeldt, Parks & Recreation, City of Albuquerque
 - Cheryl presented an overview of GARTC, explaining its purpose of developing recreational trail systems across jurisdictions and reviewing trail-related plans. She noted that while GARTC has 8 voting members representing different user groups, there has been difficulty maintaining full membership and engaging partner organizations. Cheryl also shared the vacancy and quorum info between August 2024 – August 2025, which is the time frame the task force that recommended the merge used. Presentation attached.
- **GAATC Ordinance Review.** Andrew Coon, Legal, City of Albuquerque and Valerie Hermanson, Department of Municipal Development, City of Albuquerque
 - Valerie presented a high-level overview of the GAATC ordinance, which included membership and its duties. Andrew covered GAATC's limitations. GAATC is purely an advisory committee. It does not have authority to formulate public policy on behalf of the City of Albuquerque, or make decisions that are binding on the City, its departments, or City Council. GAATC can advise, but ultimately, the decisions are going to be made by those other entities, depending on what is being discussed. There was a question whether what Andrew shared about limitations also applies to GARTC. Based on staff's understanding, GARTC is also purely advisory. Presentation attached.
- **Public comment.** None.
- **Open Discussion among task force members.** The task force explored potential options for merging, not merging, or creating a broader, new committee covering all things transportation and recreation. Andrew clarified that any new committee and its structure would require City Council approval. Members discussed the differences between recreation and active transportation. For example, some members do not bicycle for fun

and are bicycling to get somewhere. Some task force members expressed concerns about bottlenecks and delays if the committees were combined, arguing that separation currently works more efficiently. The task force members expressed the need to carefully consider whether merging would actually improve efficiency, particularly given the different environments and agencies involved in each area. For example, PRD manages off-street facilities, and DMD manages on-street facilities. There were questions about departmental ownership and interdepartmental accountability issues. The task force discussed allowing members to participate in multiple boards and commissions, with Andrew clarifying that current ordinance limits members to one public board at a time. There might be an opportunity for better coordination and cross participation, with volunteer attendance at each other's committee meetings. Members discussed options for keeping the committees separate, merging them, or creating a new structure, along with potential improvements to membership, representation, and coordination. Views differed, and the discussion remained exploratory. No recommendation on whether to merge was adopted.

- **Next meeting:** Tuesday, October 13, from 5 to 7 pm
- Adjourned at 7 pm.