

Americans with Disability Advisory Council Minutes

Date: Tuesday, May 4, 2021

Time: 5:30 p.m.

Location: Zoom

Council Members Present:

Matthew Loehman, Chair
Travis Davis, Vice-Chair
Sean King
Kaatje van der Gaarden
Daniel Strones

City Staff Present:

Adam Leuschel, Assistant City Attorney
Jordan Vargas, ADA Coordinator
Crystal Velarde, Minute Taker
Cynthia Borrego, City Council President

Members of the Public

Linnea Forsythe, Acting Agency Director, New Mexico Governor's Commission on Disability
Nat Dean
Karen Cushnyr

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:36 pm with Chair Loehman, Vice-Chair Davis, and members King, Strones, and van der Gaarden.

II. Approval of Agenda

Member King moved to approve the agenda, and Vice-Chair Davis seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved by other council members.

III. Approval of April 6, 2021, Minutes

Member van der Gaarden moved to approve the April 6, 2021, minutes, and Vice-Chair Davis seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved by other council members.

IV. Introductions

All who were present introduced themselves.

V. Public Comment

A member of the public discussed a new law. If citizens try to pass off a pet or emotional support animal as a service animal there is a \$1,000 fine and or jail time. Santa Fe is also promoting ads to discourage people from leaving their pets in their vehicles during the hot summer months.

VI. Discussion with Council Member Cynthia Borrego, President, Albuquerque City Council

Albuquerque City Council President Cynthia Borrego discussed her role in sponsoring O-19-86. O-19-86 is an ordinance passed in December of 2019. It requires public places like bars and restaurants with a television to activate closed captioning on at least one TV. The ordinance also included some measures for non-compliance. Council President Borrego stated owners will receive one to two warnings prior to any city enforcement. The Respondent will have 30 days to comply after they receive notice. Any non-compliance thereafter can result in a civil penalty of up to \$250 for the initial offence and \$500 for each subsequent offence. The

ordinance can be found at <https://www.cabq.gov/legal/documents/ordinance-o-19-86.pdf>.

City Council President Borrego also discussed how City Council is working on finding funds to improve city sidewalks. She encouraged the ADA Advisory Council to reach out to the Mayor and their City Council members to discuss their concerns regarding accessibility.

ADA Advisory Council members shared concerns of not having a full board, receiving parking tickets for their placard not matching their license plate, downtown handicap parking and sidewalk accessibility. City Council President Borrego stated she will follow up with the Mayor's office regarding board members, and with the Department of Municipal Development regarding parking tickets and sidewalk accessibility.

VII. Discussion with Linnea Forsythe, Acting Agency Director, New Mexico Governor's Commission on Disability

Ms. Forsythe discussed what the New Mexico Governor's Commission on Disability (GCD) offers. Their mission is to improve accessibility for people with disabilities and improve the quality of life for New Mexicans. Their four main programs include:

1. Disability Awareness and Advocacy program is currently being run by Lisa McNiven. Ms. McNiven provides trainings around disability awareness and access. She has also been working on emergency preparedness and preparing an after-action report. The report will cover what has worked for those with disabilities during the pandemic. GCD also hosted a vaccine accessible event for the COVID vaccine and are advocating for effective communication on information regarding the vaccine. Anyone interested in volunteering can reach out to Ms. McNiven and Ms. Forsythe at Linnea.Forsythe@state.nm.us and Lisa.mcniven@state.nm.us.
2. New Mexico Technology Assistance program is a federally funded program. They provide assistance with technology support and provide devices to try for 30 days. The trial device period is to make sure it works for that individual without them paying for it and the device not working for them.
3. Physical Accessibility Unit which has the RAMP program. They do home modifications such as building ramps or bathroom modification. This allows for people to live on their own longer. Last year the program assisted in 62 home modifications. The requirements for this program include but are not limited to must be a NM resident for 6 months, have a disability and limited income. They also provide guidance on accessible parking. All information regarding this program can be found at <http://gcd.state.nm.us/residential-accessibility-modification-program-ramp/application-and-fact-sheet/>.
4. Brain Advisory Council which is headed by Monica Montoya. She works with people who have brain injuries and those who care for people with them. They identify the issues brain injury survivors have and what can be done to improve those issues. Ms. Forsythe is also working with UNM on a prevalence study to identify the gaps in care for people with brain injuries. She is also looking into getting federal money to pilot programs and close some of the gaps that are currently there.

Member Strones shared he learned of a card that can be ordered online to inform

others you have a traumatic brain injury (TBI). The card has information of characteristics for those with TBI as well as the individuals name and emergency contact information. The card can be obtained at www.brainlaw.com.

Ms. Vargas inquired if GCD still provides scholarships for ADA Coordinator Certifications. GCD does provides scholarships for ADA Coordinator Certifications. These certifications are \$300 apiece. GCD will need to review their budget to see how many they can provide but they do provide some. They are also willing to work with the city to get city employees certified and maybe pay for some of the employees. Anyone wanting to do the certification on their own can sign up at <https://www.adacoordinator.org/>. The website lists all requirements and information regarding the certification process and upkeep.

VIII. New Business and Announcements from Members

Member Strones announced he will be presenting on sex, love and disability on Sunday.

Member van der Gaarden is doing stand up comedy again as the city reopens after the pandemic.

IX. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:47 pm.

The next regularly scheduled ADA Advisory Council Meeting will be Tuesday, June 1, 2021.

Matthew Loehman, Chair

Date