

# City of Albuquerque

## Department of Senior Affairs Advisory Council

714 Seventh Street SW  
Albuquerque, NM 87102



Anna M. Sanchez, Director

DSA Advisory Council Meeting  
Manzano Mesa Multigenerational Center  
September 23, 2019

### Minutes

- I. Meeting Called to Order by Evan Thompson – 12:08 pm
  - a. Present: Evan Thompson, Bobbi Carmona-Young, Diann Huddleson, Onastine Jaramillo, Lucy Lopez, Debby Knotts, Greg Lopez, Joie Glenn, C. Hugh Formhals, Steve Borbas, and Allison Weber
  - b. Absent: Richard Garcia
- II. Approval of Minutes
  - a. Evan motions, Onastine seconds, July Minutes approved.
- III. Approval of the Agenda
  - a. Evan motions, Onastine seconds, September Agenda was approved.
- IV. Motions
  - a. Onastine motions for Evan to serve as Acting Chair, council agrees, Evan accepts.
- V. Public Participation
  - a. Margo Bouchard, TOPS member asking how they can structure their group like AARP to avoid the room use fee at Manzano Mesa Multigenerational Center. Also asks if they can hold fundraisers like some of the other centers but was told they are not allowed. Council Member Barbara stated she is also a TOPS member and suggests her group assembles at a church.
  - b. Janet Porter belongs to a Red Hat organization and other sub-groups such as the book club are having a hard time paying the room use fees and is upset that it is causing the groups to lose members or stop altogether.
  - c. Frank Gill, also a TOPS member also with the same issue questioning who makes the decision on who to charge for room usage and why that amount. He also asked if there was a fee schedule.
  - d. Margaret Gill upset with room swaps at Manzano Mesa. Their exercise group meets from 8:15-9:15 T/TH and pickle ball group is constantly trying to come into the room or waiting at the door before their scheduled time, rushing them to get out. Wants to know how she can change or appeal center policies. She said she has talked to management at the center and nothing is being done, the group members are still doing the same thing.
  - e. Mr. Wood states that more funding would bring more exercise classes which is something the senior population really needs to stay healthy and active in the centers. He also suggests music could draw more seniors into the centers, to really liven it up.
  - f. Veronica Cordova attended on behalf of Bernalillo County to discuss the partnership between the City and the County for meal site locations.

VI. Introduction of New Employees

- a. Anna introduced Angel Gomez as the new RSVP Program Coordinator, Angel reminded council members that they can sign up with RSVP to get credit for serving on the committee.
- b. Anna introduced Nikki Peone as the new Recreation Division Manager, Nikki gave a short bio of herself and that she is in her first week and is excited to join the team.
- c. Anna introduced Kinsey Cooper as the new Marketing Specialist. Kinsey is excited to take on new projects for the department.
- d. Anna introduced Jenifer Gonzales as the new Executive Assistant. Jenifer will remain the main contact for council members and is available for any questions they may have.

VII. DSA Report: Ed Nunez, Manzano Mesa Multigenerational Center

- a. Ed provided an update on the summer youth program at MMMC. This year was the first implementation of an 8-week program instead of 6 weeks. The program was well organized and field trips were a success in making sure the kids were actively learning. Right now, the kids are working on a science project and the program is working well. He wanted to remind everyone of the upcoming Fall Fest on October 26<sup>th</sup>.

VIII. Administrative Reports

- a. Division Reports
  - a. Social Services – Agnes Vallejos
    - 1. Agnes explained that this was busy season for Home Services. On October 19<sup>th</sup>, they will partner up with Local Union 412 for the HEATS On project, where volunteers will go to 60+ senior’s homes to get their furnace turned on for the winter. They also have 25 people scheduled to put plastic on the windows to keep their homes warm.
  - b. Recreation – Nikki Peone
    - 1. Nikki plans to take a look at recreation’s policies and procedures to ensure that they are up to date and make any changes necessary.
  - c. Nutrition/Transportation – Thomas Martinez
    - 1. Thomas discussed working with the Department of Solid Waste to map out 8 fixed routes that provide rides to the centers and other locations. They give approximately 1,100 rides per month.
    - 2. They deliver approximately 8,000 meals a month to homebound seniors and it is steadily increasing.
    - 3. They provide approximately 2,100 rides a month to and from medical appointments with a notice of 7 days in advance.
    - 4. Lastly, they are working on updating policies and procedures for employees and passengers.

Barbara brought up the issue of volunteer drivers being charged for parking. They were told they would be reimbursed but are have not received payment. They are asking if they could be paid in advance. This will be look at by the Department.

- b. Associate Director Report – Anthony Romero
  - a. Anthony expressed his excitement at having a full council with 12 members. He gave a recap of the National Senior Games and final action items of the after-action report and audit which should be wrapped up by the end of November. He also addressed items about the National Senior Games that came up at previous council meetings.

- c. Director Report – Anna Sanchez
  - a. Anna spoke about what she learned when attending the Harvard classes learning about the duties and importance of being a public servant. The workshops were interesting and informative. She is excited at the energy this council brings moving forward and reminds members their part in advocating for the members of the centers and using this platform to speak on their behalf.
  - b. Upcoming DSA employee retreat on October 17<sup>th</sup>, welcome to join or stop for a day of fun and learning.
  - c. Hiring new Division Manager for Nutrition/Transportation, interviews are concluded and they are hoping to make an offer soon.
  - d. Briefly spoke about upcoming construction projects, such as North Domingo Baca.
  - e. All division managers are working on updates to policies and procedures within their areas and will work with informing the Advisory Council of proposed changes.

IX. Council Member Reports

- a. Greg reported that the parking spaces at North Domingo Baca are done and they are almost fully staffed.
- b. Debby updated the group on UNM's Grand Challenge and the focus areas of the five projects geared toward the aging population. UNM just announced they are offering classes to 65 and older for \$5 for any classes that have open seats after registration deadline.
- c. Hugh reported that North Valley was running smoothly. He described programming which included karaoke and how the computer labs are being underutilized.
- d. Evan reported that all appeared well at the Center. He informed everyone that the Senior Expo will be coming up on Thursday, September 25<sup>th</sup> from 8:30-4:30 at the Journal Center, and that shuttles will be transporting members from the centers.
- e. Joie reported that she had enjoyed learning more about her heritage through the Italian classes offered at Bear Canyon. She talked about the new Secretary for Aging and Long-Term Services, Katrina Lopez, and how she has been actively traveling around the state to advocate. She is excited to learn about senior centers across the state.
- f. Bobbi gave an update on the construction at Los Volcanes, they are currently working on the fire suppression system. It has caused the cancellations of some classes, but has spoken with Maria and hopes everything will be complete by their festival on October 4<sup>th</sup>. There will be tables for vendors to sell if anyone is interested. Parking is an issue and will be available at West Mesa pool with a shuttle running every 10 minutes. Flu shots will be provided by Wal-Mart.
- g. Onastine reported that the North Valley fishing club is in high demand so they are looking at having a lottery, the person who draws the highest card gets to go on the trip. Those that have paid and can't go are asking for their money back. She has also received comments/concerns from members that they are no longer serving bread at North Valley because the dietician states there is no nutritional value. She also reports that she has really seen a difference in the members at Highland who are part of the spirit club. It has been a success and members are even dressing younger.
- h. Diann indicated that Julianna is working on a plan to renew the pottery class at Highland.
- i. Allison Weber had to leave early.
- j. Lucy reported that things seem to be running smoothly at Highland. She gets reports that there are fun activities such as movie matinees that fit about 25 people.
- k. Steve introduced himself as the newest member to the Advisory Council and gave a short bio on himself. He is interested in the changing senior population; their music, interests,

hobbies and how our work reflects that programming. He also mentions that he may check out Palo Duro to also show some representation at the center.

- X. Advisory Council Business – no advisory council business
- XI. Old/New Business –
  - a. Begin preparing the 2020 calendar of scheduled meetings
  - b. Will hold elections for Chair in January
- XII. Announcements: Upcoming Events, Etc.
  - a. Handout with upcoming events was provided.
- XIII. Adjournment
  - a. Meeting was adjourned at 1:54 pm.

**Next Meeting will be October 21, 2019 – North Domingo Baca Multigenerational Center  
7521 Carmel Ave NE**