

City of Albuquerque Department of Senior Affairs Advisory Council



Anna M. Sanchez, Director

1 Civic Plaza NW
Albuquerque, NM 87102

DSA Advisory Council Meeting
January 23, 2023

Minutes

- I. Meeting Called to Order by Chair Evan Thompson – 12:03 pm
 - a. Present: Evan Thompson; Dubra Karnes-Padilla; Raymond Taylor; Louis Carlentine; Steve Borbas; Havens Levitt; Henry Shonerd
 - b. Absent: Lucy Lopez; Sheila Hundley; Teresa Haering and Marth Medina
- II. Approval of Minutes and Agenda
 - a. Evan motions for approval of minutes, Henry seconds. The November minutes are approved.
 - b. Evan motions for approval of agenda, Steve seconds. The January agenda is approved.
- III. Public Participation
 - a. No public participation.
- IV. New Introductions
 - a. Maria introduced Ed Ackron, the new Program Manager. This position will oversee the programs within the Social Services Division.
 - b. Agnes introduced Silvia McElvany, the new Program Data Analyst II. This position will oversee the department's monthly reports in addition to measuring the department's goals and objectives in alignment with the strategic plan.
- V. Center Manager Report – America Benocmo, Los Volcanes Senior Center Manager
 - a. America reported on upcoming special events happening in February at Los Volcanes Senior Center. They have been serving between 72 – 80 seniors for breakfast each day. There were a total of 2050 people served so far for the month of January, and there were 405 a la carte menu items served.
 - b. America reported that they recently lost some of their goodwill volunteers for the kitchen so hopefully they will be getting some to return to help out. As far as the facility goes, they are working on upgrading the lighting in the center at an estimated cost of 300k. This improvement will see a return in about 5.5 years. The project is estimated to be completed in November 2023 and was funded by an energy saving initiative, not DSA dollars. America reported that the center is undergoing improvement renovations to include converting classroom space, restriping of the parking lot, and the installation of ADA doors. Lastly, America reported that they are participating in a YDI job mentorship program where students from West Mesa, Rio Grande, Atrisco Vista work 20 hours per week to learn new skills.

VI. DSA Overview Refresh

- a. SBMT open by early next year, off of Edith and Mountain, 5000 square foot facility, community members are very vocal, the department is working hard on getting it open. Programming work is needed as well as advocacy to provide opportunity for people to gather. DSA may need council members help in talking to the community.
- b. Cibola Loop- across from Cibola High School, is looking closer to 20 Million and Councilor Borrego is receptive.
- c. GO Bond cycle is coming up, and DSA may need help at the City Council meetings for council members to attend and speak on behalf of the department. May also need them to attend City of the Whole meetings meetings. DSA will write a letter or email to share with council members so they can send out as needed. Ray stated that he would like to be more involved in the process, kind of like “secret shoppers”, others felt that leaving early is not a good thing when volunteering because they want to get more engaged and are willing to dig deeper.

VII. Administrative Reports

- a. Strategic Planning – Agnes Vallejos
 - a. Agnes shared that the strategic plan is in the works and each division is working on their work plans going forward. She also reported that duplexe use, Motel conversion and building heights approval was not approved. Mireya Jurado- will be doing Covid Education for staff.
- b. Social Services Division – Maria ReQua
 - a. Maria reported that they are working on the food card process and distributing those out to seniors.
- c. Nutrition/Transportation Division – Tim Martinez
 - a. Tim reported that there are 3 vans that are done being wrapped to better identify the department and that the meal site program is now fully staffed.
- d. Recreation Division – Angel Montoya Social Services
 - a. Angel reported that the sports and fitness program is working on the annual 50+ games. Manzano Mesa will host an open house, this is a good opportunity to meet their staff members. There will be a youth job fair in February to recruit workers for the summer programs at the Multigens.

VIII. Council Member Reports

- a. None

IX. Advisory Council Business

- b. Dubra and Ray attended the NDB forum and reported that it interesting to hear the requests for seniors around the state, long term care insurances, seeing prices goup and being priced out of it. Go to their office of Superintendants of Insurance which we have in New Mexico. Policy driven concerns- lots of legislatures showed up that morning.

X. Announcements: Upcoming Events, Etc.

- a. None.

XI. Adjournment – Evan motioned to adjourn the meeting, Henry seconds. Meeting adjourned at 1:02 pm.