

# City of Albuquerque

## Department of Senior Affairs

### Advisory Council



Anna M. Sanchez, Director

714 Seventh Street SW  
Albuquerque, NM 87102

DSA Advisory Council Meeting  
Zoom Meeting  
October 25, 2021

## Minutes

- I. Meeting Called to Order by Co-Chair Onastine Jaramillo – 12:07 pm
  - a. Present: Evan Thompson; Onastine Jaramillo; and Lucy Lopez
  - b. Absent: Jennifer Roth; Louis Carlentine; Havens Levitt; Dubra Karnes-Padilla; Steve Borbas; Bobbi Carmona-Young; and Henry Shonerd
- II. Approval of Minutes and Agenda
  - a. A quorum was not present at this meeting, unable to motion for approval of minutes or agenda.
- III. Public Participation
  - a. No public participation.
- IV. Palo Duro Senior Center Manager Report – Antoinette Sigala
  - a. Antoinette Sigala, Senior Center Manager at Palo Duro reported that they filled the position of Program Coordinator with Carl Corona on 9/13/21 and he has been doing a wonderful job. They also very recently filled their vacant Program Assistant position with Holly Anne, who is a few weeks in and learning more every day. They had 37 members in attendance for their Pumpkin Dance so that was a big success. Their fall festival will be coming up, the plan is to have a cake walk among other festivities and the band Rhythm Devine will be playing. Antoinette reported that the Veterans wall unveiling was a hit, there were 39 folks in attendance, they gave out 12 awards and many family members showed up as well. There will be a trim trimming event on December 1<sup>st</sup> at the Palo Duro and they will serve bischochitos and hot apple cider.
  - b. Antoinette was excited to announce that they have built some partnerships with the community to include; Albertson's, Goodwill, Elmcroft Senior Living, and Governor Bent Elementary School, Oak Street Health, and Starbucks. Furthermore, they have partnered up with Governor Bent Elementary to offer intergenerational programming; when school started some senior members and staff waved to the kids and welcomed them back to school with signs. The kids will come and sing to the seniors during Christmastime. The plan is to have their volunteer librarian back to read to the kids, due to COVID, the librarian has been reading to the kids at North Domingo Baca once a month.

- c. Lastly, Antoinette reported on some of the upgrades that have happened at the center recently and during COVID. They have painted in many areas of the center, and have added street signs to make finding the center easier. They have put new flooring in the social hall, added two new registers for RecTrack, and the pool tables are getting new felt. They also added a new little library.

V. AmeriCorp Senior Corp RSVP Overview – Maria ReQua

- a. Maria is the Department's Community Volunteer Engagement Manager and she filled in for Angel Gomez who could not make it to the meeting. Angel oversees the Retired Senior Volunteer Program and RSVP is the largest program. RSVP works with volunteer to find what their interests are and helps to place volunteers not only with the Department, but also many non-profit organizations throughout the City. There are currently over 400 volunteers in this program. During the pandemic, many volunteers chose to resign, but the program is working on reaching out to those volunteers to see if they would like to rejoin. Some of the volunteers remained in active service and volunteered for many of the essential stations that remained operating such as Catholic Charities, and much needed medical transportation. Now that the Centers are reopened, many of the volunteers have returned.
- b. Anna asked Maria if she could explain how, historically, RSVP was listed as a volunteer station which made it possible for folks like the Advisory Council members to join and receive credit for the hours they have contributed to the council. It also allows them to join in endeavors such as collecting coats for all ages and other volunteer activities. If the council members decide to join through the RSVP station, they could streamline the background check process and also be covered by supplemental accident and insurance policy should they be injured while volunteering. Onastine thinks it's important for the all age -eligible council members to join through RSVP so they can start logging these hours. Onastine asked if there was a way for 54 and under to qualify? Maria said in her new roll she is working on hammering out those details also with student volunteers and corporate volunteers under the age of 55. Maria said that age -eligible council members can join once the Department puts a formal MOU in place with RSVP and connect that way.

VI. Administrative Reports

- a. Social Services Division – Agnes Vallejos
  - a. Agnes reported that her team recently completed their Refresh and Reconnect session and they really seemed to enjoy that downtime to connect with each other and received good feedback. Agnes thanked Lucy for joining. It was helpful to be in one place and touching base with each other on what's been going on.
  - b. There are 118 on the list for H.E.A.T.S On and that will be taking place next Saturday. They will hit the first 100 homes on the list.
  - c. Agnes highlighted the Department's efforts in the first Walk to End Alzheimer's. The DSA team was just \$50 short of hitting the goal of \$2,000 and there were 10 participants on the team. Deb Montano and her husband raised about \$700 combined so that was awesome.
  - d. The Aging Conference is scheduled for November 17 and 18 and will be held virtually.

- e. Agnes reported that they have 4 new blue-collar personnel starting today so she is super excited to have an almost full construction team. They also had 2 new case managers start and that just leaves 1 person short on that team. Anna gave KUDOS to Agnes and the HS team as it has been challenging reorganizing the program and building in a career ladder and now they can look forward to doing more work in a thoughtful way; how to do inventory, how to schedule home services, and Agnes concluded by saying KUDOS to the team who hasn't stopped serving people through this time even with a skeleton crew.
- b. Nutrition/Transportation Division – Tim Martinez
  - a. Tim reported that they recently hired a Stock Keeper and filled 2 General Service Worker positions that are starting today. The E16 Program Manager position closed last week, and they currently have a listing open for 5 drivers and a Sr. Office Assistant. Tim shared that there will be a trunk or treat taking place at Whispering Pines meal site.
- c. Recreation Division – Nikki Peone
  - a. Nikki reported that they wrapped up their retreat session with her team last week, and wanted to thank Lucy for attending as well. There are 104 folks listed in the recreation division and it was nice to have everyone together. The feedback she received was nice to have everyone together to mingle and meet others who work at other facilities that they don't see on a regular basis. They had a lot of employee recognition and made it meaningful.
  - b. Nikki reported that her team has been in programming mode gearing up for fall activities and doing a lot of Halloween activities at the centers this week. Thanksgiving tickets for the lunch meal will go on sale November 1.
  - c. Nikki reported that with the Conference on Aging coming up on November 17 and 18, they have signed up to host the hybrid classes at 3 of their centers; Barelvas, Manzano Mesa, and North Domingo Baca to virtually bring the conference to its members. There will be refreshments provided and lunch can be reserved as it will be served during that time.
- d. Associate Director – Deb Brinkley
  - a. Deb reported that she has been following up on getting some of the safety training done. She is working on getting the active shooter training scheduled at some of the centers as well as CPR training. Deb is wrapping up the Red Book project and mapping out fire routes in preparation for AFR inspections. Anna asked if there are any future CPR training that can be offered for council members and that leadership can also attend? Deb send she can propose a couple of dates for that to hold at the Barelvas Senior Center.
- e. Deputy Director – Chris Sanchez
  - a. Chris reported on the numbers that were submitted from the recent survey that was held at all the Centers. He highlighted the summary stating that some of the key elements they focused on was the lunch programming and center activities, and weekend programming expansion. There was a total of 853 responses and 230 of them were submitted online, which is awesome to see folks using technology. The biggest age group was 70-79. 366 of members state that they participate in activities as well as lunch. The

number 1 program that folks enjoy was socializing with friends, the next most popular program was exercise and fitness, with the 3<sup>rd</sup> being nutrition and health and wellness. This really helps tell the story of what they are doing well as a Department and what they can do better. In regards to this new division, they can really use it to conduct outreach and see how they can get more folks engaged with their local center, what kinds of activities it will take to get the older adults in the community involved.

- f. Director – Anna Sanchez
  - a. Anna reported that they have been focusing on a lot community centered activity. For instance, they just wrapped up a press conference on the Cibola Loop Multigenerational Center on the Westside and it was great because Dubra, who is also a resident of the area, and part of the Age-Friendly committee, was able to attend and really honed in on the livable/walkable community that brings generations together. Anna will ask Denise to share that clip with the council members.
  - b. Anna reported that this leads into next year’s budget request; a resolution for the Age-Friendly action plan will be on the upcoming City Council meeting agenda. Anna will have her leadership team come together to brainstorm how they can tackle some of the complex issues with staffing and how they are going to stand up new programs with the current staff already stretched so thin.
  - c. Anna reported that Bill Armbruster at AARP had invited her to speak about the Department’s Age-Friendly work.
  - d. Anna reported that they are working on adding some vehicle wraps to the transportation vehicles and “brand” the program to bring to light the program and how it differs from others. Anna asked if council members would be willing to talk to elected officials in the coming months, and she can help tee that up and will be reaching out.

VII. Council Member Reports

- a. Onastine commented that the last time she visited Palo Duro she did receive some feedback from members stating that it was hard for them to get a copy of the monthly newsletter. Seeing it now, she sees how nice it is. Nikki stated that hopefully by the end of the month, each center will be equipped to post their “daily agenda’s” on a TV screen that will rotate things like what is happening in the center that day, the breakfast and lunch menu, and other announcements. She also stated that she would mention the newsletters to Antoinette and make sure they are readily available for members so they don’t need to be asked for.
- b. Evan announced that him and Onastine attended the Primetime Expo and was surprised to see quite a big turnout. There were 500-600 attendees and 120 vendors.

VIII. Advisory Council Business

- a. None at this time.

IX. Old/New Business

- a. None at this time.

X. Announcements: Upcoming Events, Etc.

- a. None at this time

XI. Adjournment – Meeting was adjourned at 1:00 pm.