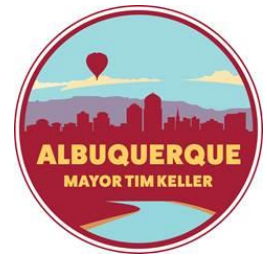


City of Albuquerque

Department of Senior Affairs Advisory Council

714 Seventh Street SW
Albuquerque, NM 87102



Anna M. Sanchez, Director

DSA Advisory Council Meeting
Zoom Meeting
November 16, 2020

Minutes

- I. Meeting Called to Order by Chair Evan Thompson – 12:03 pm
 - a. Present: Evan Thompson, Bobbi Carmona-Young, Louis Carlentine, Greg Lopez, Lucy Lopez, Steve Borbas, Allison Weber, and Onastine Jaramillo
 - b. Absent: Richard Garcia
- II. Approval of Minutes
 - a. Evan motioned for approval of October minutes, Greg seconds. October minutes approved.
- III. Approval of the Agenda
 - a. Evan motions for approval of November agenda, Steve seconds. November Agenda approved.
- IV. Public Participation
 - a. No public present during this Zoom meeting.
- V. Michelle Briscoe – AAA Presentation
 - a. Michelle, Area Agency on Aging Services Manager, gave a presentation to the council on the purpose of AAA. Some of the highlights are that AAA was established by the Older American Act and there are approximately 620 AAA's across the nation. They are state sanctioned, federally mandated and offer services for seniors in partnership with Senior Affairs. NM Aging and Long-Term Services is the state unit of aging. The goal is to help seniors age in place with dignity and provide an array of services to best suit them. In working with Senior Affairs, it is important that there are clear policies and procedures and reporting processes in place to ensure future funding. Proper reporting helps to avoid things such as underreporting or reporting double numbers. Evan asked if the presentation could be shared with the group. Jenifer will email a copy to everyone. Anna added that the council plays an important role in ensuring that we are offering the right services.
- VI. Administrative Reports
 - a. Social Services Division – Agnes Vallejos
 - a. Agnes reported that the Senior Corps team has been holding their volunteer recognition ceremonies as drive thru events, due to the pandemic. The most recent being RSVP who held the event at Highland Senior Center.
 - b. DSA has teamed up with Silver Horizons to deliver food bags to DSA clients. So far, they have 500 people enrolled in the program. Agnes mentioned that if the council knows of any seniors in need to refer to I&A.
 - c. Agnes reported that they launched the free firewood program. Each senior will receive 2 wheelbarrows full of wood, which should serve around 200 folks. There will be a media announcement so I&A is anticipating a high volume of calls.

- b. Recreation Division – Nikki Peone
 - a. Nikki reported that four of the senior centers have received National Accreditation last week. The four centers were Barelmas, Highland, North Domingo Baca, and Bear Canyon. It was a virtual accreditation, which was a great learning experience. Nikki said thanks to the council members who helped us reach accreditation. The process will soon begin for the other four centers so there will be opportunities for other council members to help out in this capacity.
 - b. Nikki reported that virtual programming is still doing well, we are committed to continue to offer these opportunities in the coming months. The drive thru and virtual friendship coffee events are very popular, especially at the closed centers. 50 members attended the event at Palo Duro just last week. It shows just how important human connection is.
 - c. Nikki reported that the Senior Citizens Law office will have a presentation on Nov. 18 at 10:00 am on Webex. Please contact Nikki if you would like to sign up. The GEHM clinic will be offering flu shots on Nov. 19 at the Barelmas Senior Center if anyone is interested. Nikki also announced that the cultural facilities, such as the bio park, are offering senior outings. As we monitor the pandemic, we are hoping this will continue.
- c. Nutrition/Transportation Division – Tim Martinez
 - a. Tim reported that his team was in the midst of the Thanksgiving meal preparations. They will be distributing approximately 11,000 meals during that week to ensure folks are fed for the holiday closures. He also reported that, due to vacancies, they have been using temporary workers to help fill in. The team is working on getting the most critical positions filled.
- d. Deputy Director – Anthony Romero
 - a. Anthony wanted to give a thank you to the team for achieving National Accreditation. They were able to get through it, even with personnel issues and the pandemic going on. Also, thank you to Deb for helping out at the EOC. Currently, they have a hotel set up to help seniors, and Deb has been managing those efforts. Nikki has been helping to work on a plan in case they need to activate an emergency center.
- e. Director – Anna Sanchez
 - a. Anna reported that we are working to get CARES money spent by Dec. 30th. We are working to wrap up the purchase of our grocery gift card program, getting vendors on board and working on a plan to get those cards distributed to those most in need. She also reported that we are preparing for the FY22 budget cycle which we will be working on the next 2 ½ months. Karen, was asked to attend this meeting to present on Capital Implementation Projects (CIP), she reported that this is the first time DSA has been proposed for this much funding. We are excited to see what this funding can do for the seniors. Lastly, Anna reported that COVID has slowed the process of getting folks hired and we are continuing to find ways to ensure we have the capacity to meet the needs of meal production and continue to offer other services.

VII. Council Member Reports

- a. Onastine suggested that the CIP funds could possibly be used for the reopening of the facilities such as purchasing plexiglass, PPE, cleaning services, etc. She also asked if perhaps people could sign up or schedule a time to use the gyms. Anthony answered that

Nikki has worked that into the reopening plan in phases. It would include reservations, time limits, and time in between blocked off for cleaning.

- b. Bobbi reported that Los Volcanes friendship coffees has been wonderful. It was nice to see others there and touch base with others. The recorded painting classes are also being offered. The staff has been decorating for Halloween and it looks festive. They have flu shots scheduled to provide to 45 seniors, and on Nov. 13th, a record 460 people showed up for lunch.

VIII. Advisory Council Business

- a. Anna reminded the council that elections will be held in January, 2021. Also, because we still can't meet in person to have a luncheon in December, more information to follow on what DSA will do for the council members.

IX. Old/New Business

- a. None at this time.

X. Announcements: Upcoming Events, Etc.

- a. None at this time.

XI. Adjournment – Evan calls for motion to adjourn, Onastine seconds. Meeting was adjourned at 1:26 pm.