

# City of Albuquerque

## Department of Senior Affairs

### Advisory Council



Anna M. Sanchez, Director

1 Civic Plaza NW  
Albuquerque, NM 87102

DSA Advisory Council Meeting  
November 21, 2022

## Minutes

- I. Meeting Called to Order by Chair Evan Thompson – 12:11 pm
  - a. Present: Evan Thompson; Dubra Karnes-Padilla; Raymond Taylor; Louis Carlentine; Steve Borbas; and Marth Medina
  - b. Absent: Lucy Lopez; Sheila Hundley; Teresa Haering; Havens Levitt; and Henry Shonerd
- II. Approval of Minutes and Agenda
  - a. Evan motions for approval of minutes, Lou seconds. The October minutes are approved.
  - b. Evan motions for approval of agenda, Dubra seconds. The November agenda is approved.
- III. Public Participation
  - a. None
- IV. New Introductions
  - a. Tim welcomes Jenifer as the new Program Coordinator for the Nutrition/Transportation Division. Jenifer brings many years of operational and management experience and will oversee the food production, meal sites, and transportation programs. Jenifer enjoys working for the Department of Senior Affairs and is excited to begin this new role and provide support to the N/T Division.
  - b. Nikki announced Natasha Montoya as the new Community Volunteer Engagement Manager. This position will over the AmeriCorps Seniors Programs as well as the DSA volunteer program. Natasha has served as Multigenerational Center at Manzano Mesa for 2 ½ years and was Palo Duro Senior Center Manager before that.
- V. Center Manager Report – Natasha Montoya, Manzano Mesa MultiGen Center Manager
  - a. Natasha reported that they had a great turnout for the Winter Artisan Fair at Manzano Mesa. It was a successful event and they have around 500 people attend. In addition to the different booths that were there, Animal Welfare was on site with available adoptions, and FGP volunteers were doing stained glass with the kids. They had their fall festival in October and had a haunted house that the kids loved. They have been working on their “Returnship” program where they are working with older adults attempting to get back in to the workforce. The program has been doing really well and it has been great to get the help. Natasha reported that their annual “Kidsgiving” luncheon will be coming up and they have a group of volunteer seniors who have been teaching the kids how to knit. Lastly, they will be

having a family Grinch night on December 16 for families to come and watch the Grinch and enjoy refreshments.

VI. Administrative Reports

- a. Strategic Planning – Agnes Vallejos
  - a. Agnes shared the Age Friendly quarterly report with Advisory Council members that will be submitted to City Council. There will also be an update on the housing initiative presented to City Council that will discuss the proposed IDO zoning changes. This work ties in with the Age Friendly initiative. Steve asked where the housing is going to be? Agnes reported that this city-wide initiative is hoping to add 5,000 housing units of all types every year in order to meet the growing demand by 2025.
- b. Social Services Division – Maria ReQua
  - a. Maria reported that I&A has met their yearly goals for outreach and have slowed down which helps when the calls go up for the winter months. They will be evaluating how and where they do their outreach moving forward to have more on an impact on areas, they may not be reaching to have a more intentional client-finding process.
  - b. Maria reported that they are still working to fill vacancies. The crew they have has been working on getting through the waitlist. Firewood season has started and some folks will be getting 2 cords of wood delivered. It has been determined on if wood is their only source of heat; supplemental vs. sole source of heat. Lastly, Maria reported that they will be holding the annual holiday drive for homebound seniors through December 16. Donations are distributed through case management, and they will share the flyer on the items that are needed.
- c. Nutrition/Transportation Division – Tim Martinez
  - a. Tim reported that he has been working on onboarding Jenifer and she has been getting to know the staff. The HDM clients have received their frozen meals in anticipation of the upcoming winter weather. They are working on bundled ridership to meet the growing demand for transportation services. This means that they are bundling riders who are going to the same area to save time for the drivers who can then get to return rides quicker. Ray asked if a senior is able to use the transportation service to take their pets to the vet? Tim responded that service animals are allowed on the vans, however, they had not considered the service of vet transportation and said this is something they can look in to.
- d. Recreation Division – Angel Montoya Social Services
  - a. Angel reported that there are bins set up at each of the senior centers for the holiday drive. They have also been working on the annual Thanksgiving luncheon which will take place at Palo Duro Senior Center this year. They have reservations for 120 and the meal is \$4 a person. Angel announced that the holiday luncheon will take place on December 25 at Los Volcanes Senior Center. Angel went over some of the holiday-related activities happening at all of the centers and referred to the activity guide that Denise put together.
- e. Associate Director – Nikki Peone

- a. Nikki reported that the annual RSVP breakfast was a wonderful event and they had a great turnout to recognize their volunteers. She thanked the advisory council members for attending. Nikki announced that DSA was accepted and will be a part of the Twinkle Light Parade on December 3. The parade begins on Central/Washington and will end on Girard. The theme they chose was “Deck the Decades” and Maria’s crew has been hard at work to build the float and jukebox. Nikki invited any advisory council members to join and bring their family, the more the merrier, and they can dress up as any decade as they would like. Lastly, there will be a centenarian riding in the front and they will be honoring him.
- f. Deputy Director – Chris Sanchez
  - a. Chris reported that they will begin assessments at each of the facilities which will help identify a better use of capital expenses and they will be taking a more systematic approach moving forward. They are working hard on filling vacancies department-wide and working any additional positions needed in the overall strategic plan. They are working on long-term sustainability which will last through future administrations. They will have an in-service training day in December with the entire DSA team to look at the process.
- g. Director – Anna Sanchez
  - a. Anna invited the council members to join in the retreat in December. This will be the first department-wide training since COVID and will allow them to get together with staff and bring them up to speed on the strategic plan. The month of December is always hectic with the end of the year activities; Anna reminded the council members the holiday luncheon will be coming up and will send the invite. Administration will be delivering holiday treat to staff, and some of the things coming up in the new year will be a more forward-facing age friendly calendar, and a new orientation for council members when the new Executive Assistant comes on board.

VII. Council Member Reports

- a. None

VIII. Advisory Council Business

- a. Anna reported that they are working on the 2023 ambassador list to identify those that will say a few good things about Senior Affairs to the City Council, especially with the legislative session coming up. Henry showed up at the last session and encouraged folks to get out and vote the GO bonds for seniors. Anna will pinpoint particular City Council meetings to ask folks to advocate for DSA. Alan suggested developing a one-pager that council members can use to help show support, even if it just writing a letter. There are time limits so it is important to be on point and keep their interest on the topic so it does not get lost.

IX. Announcements: Upcoming Events, Etc.

- a. None.

- X. Adjournment – Evan motioned to adjourn the meeting, Steve seconds. Meeting adjourned at 1:05 pm.