

City of Albuquerque

Department of Senior Affairs

Advisory Council



Anna M. Sanchez, Director

1 Civic Plaza NW
Albuquerque, NM 87102

DSA Advisory Council Meeting
March 20, 2023

Minutes

- I. Roll Call
- II. Meeting Called to Order by Chair Evan Thompson at 12:11PM
 - a. Present: Evan Thompson, Tim Martinez, Victoria Velarde, Steve Borbas, Henry Shoner, Sheila Hundley, Alan Armijo, Angel Montoya, Natasha Montoya, Ilan Tena, Raymond Taylor, Louis Carlentine, Havens Levitt, Frederica Sawyer, Frank Sanchez, Maria ReQua, Anita Hamel, Joy Serna, Chris Sanchez, and Dubra Karnes-Padilla.
 - b. Not Present: Teresa Haering and Lucy Contreras, Anna Sanchez
- III. Approval of Minutes & Agenda
 - a. Evan motions to approve minutes, Sheila seconds. February minutes approved.
 - b. Evan motions to approve agenda, Steve seconds. The March agenda is approved.
- IV. Public Participation
 - a. Frank Sanchez expresses appreciation for the DSA's efforts to educate the senior community regarding technology.
 - b. Cora expresses how a recent interaction at one of DSA's recreation centers made her feel "disgruntled". An acquaintance of hers was interested to know if any trips had been coordinated for seniors to attend the annual Chimayo pilgrimage. A staff member replied "No", citing a lack of interest / Catholic participants. Cora references the cultural significance of the event and hopes a logical explanation may be presented.
 - i. Chris encouraged Cora to connect with Angel Montoya.
 - c. Another community member expressed concern over housing. She stated that she would like to advocate for elders that are overlooked in crisis. There is a SNAP education program that excludes people 60+. What resources are immediately available to address her concerns?
 - i. Chris referred her concerns to Maria ReQua.
 - d. Cora also expressed interest in filming "Senior Moments" in partnership with media for Older Americans Month.
 - i. She was referred to Victoria Velarde by Maria ReQua.
- V. New Introductions

- a. Victoria Velarde, Marketing/Public Information Officer
- b. Joy Serna, Personnel Officer
- c. Ilan Tena, Office Assistant (VIA)

VI. Center Manager Report – Anita Hamel, North Valley Senior Center

- a. North Valley is planning to create a garden.
 - i. Potential partnership with Blake’s Lota-Heart program.
- b. Anita reported that a walking group and a support group are well attended and benefiting participants.
- c. In order to address recent concerns regarding vandalism, the center anticipates the construction of gated parking.
- d. The center may also be receiving a new van soon.
- e. Thanks to many active participants, certain offerings at the center are considered at full capacity:
 - i. Bingo, Pilates, Tai Chi, Quilting, Pottery etc.

VII. VIA (Volunteers In Action) Program – Natasha Montoya, Community Volunteer Engagement Manager

- a. Natasha Montoya introduced the Department of Senior Affairs’ premier, age-inclusive program, Volunteers In Action (VIA). The online interface, OneABQ Volunteers, enables VIA staff to recruit/coordinate helpful community members to assist the Department in providing resources with care and compassion. Council members will be contacted with a registration link if their current age does not qualify them for RSVP.

VIII. DSA Administrative Updates

- a. Tim Martinez, Nutrition & Transportation Division Manager
 - i. New vehicle wraps have been completed.
 - ii. St. Patrick Day at meal sites.
 - iii. Senior Prom is next month.
 - iv. Participation in New Mexico Grown Grant strengthened division’s connection with local food producers.
 - v. Audit went well.
- b. Maria ReQua, Social Services Division Manager
 - i. Home Services is gearing up for Spring, prioritizing:
 - 1. Yard work
 - 2. Evaporative cooling systems
 - a. Supplementing workforce with volunteerism to increase service goal from ~75 to 150 units.
 - ii. SAFE funds gift cards for Case Management clients.
 - iii. I&A program supervisor, Cecelia Salazar is leaving DSA.
 - iv. Social Services outreach to target underserved areas defined as:
 - 1. Those furthest from recreation centers, low-income housing, and the under informed.
- c. Angel Montoya, Recreation Division Manager
 - i. Amber Maestas has been promoted to assume the role of Center Supervisor at North Domingo Baca Multi-generational Center.

- ii. The Tech Fair will be held on 14 April 2023 at Palo Duro Senior Center.
 - 1. The venue will rotate to each center to ensure equal exposure.
- iii. National Walking Day event at North Domingo Baca Multi-Gen.
 - 1. 6 April 2023
- iv. Coffee with Councilors
 - 1. Each center will offer a friendship coffee session with their respective district representative.
- v. Statistics
 - 1. shot clinics have dwindled to 69 people this month.
 - 2. Meal Sites tracked 1500+ a la carte hot meals.
 - 3. 728 new members
 - 4. 518 renewed memberships
 - 5. 19 trips
 - 6. 4,000 tax appointments
- d. Alan Armijo: No updates.
- e. Chris Sanchez
 - i. AAA monitoring
 - 1. Overall was impressed with how the monitoring went and felt that there were no significant issues identified during the monitoring.
 - ii. Strategic Plan
 - 1. As part of the Strategic Plan, Director may involve Council Members to advocate for the department.

IX. Announcements

- a. Havens Levitt thanks everyone for supporting Pie Palooza.
- b. Chris would like the Council to review bylaws regarding absences etc.

X. Adjournment

- a. Evan motioned to adjourn the meeting, Henry seconds. Meeting Adjourned at 1:02pm.