

Americans with Disability Advisory Council Minutes

Date: Tuesday, July 6, 2021

Time: 5:30 p.m.

Location: Zoom

Council Members Present:

Matthew Loehman, Chair
Travis Davis, Vice-Chair
Kaatje van der Gaarden
Sean King
Diane Mourning Brown
Kerry Houlihan*
*technical issues was on & off the meeting

Council Members Not Present:

Daniel Strones

Guest Speaker:

Governor Lujan Grisham

City Staff Present:

Peter Pierotti, Assistant City Attorney
Jordan Vargas, ADA Coordinator
Crystal Velarde, Minute Taker
Officer Faith Vigil
Officer David Nix

Members of the Public

Lisa Dignan
Trevor Brennan
Dorothy Onikute
Lisa McNiven
Nat Dean
Karen Cushnyr
Terra Bernhesiel
Ortiz
Eileen

I. Call to Order

- a. The meeting was called to order at 5:35 pm with Chair Loehman, Vice-Chair Davis, and members King, van der Gaarden, Mourning Brown and Houlihan.

I. Discussion on Disability-related Issues with New Mexico Governor Michelle Lujan-Grisham

- a. The New Mexico Governor Lujan Grisham appeared for a Q&A to discuss disability issues. Questions and answers were as follows:
 - i. Can the State assist the City financially so the City can become ADA compliant?
 1. Under the Biden administration the state received \$1.7 billion dollars in federal infrastructure money. Three hundred and sixty-seven million dollars was spent on unemployment, two hundred million paid loans to the federal government and four hundred million dollars was put in a trust fund. The remaining funds can be used on healthcare, or water infrastructure. The state is going to receive another billion dollars soon. However, these are one-time lump sums and there is not a lot of reoccurring money coming through the state. Governor Lujan Grisham requested the ADA Advisory Council, the Mayor, City Council, and the County all band together and go to the legislative with a plan to make the City more compliant.
 - ii. How has the DD waiver changed in the past two years and how will it change in the next two years?
 1. Due to the state being under the Jackson consistent decree there were limits to the way the state could respond to who needs services, when and where those services were needed. That

lawsuit is now in a disengagement agreement. This is because the State was unable to meet all the requirements for a discharge due to COVID. As the State starts to meet all the requirements they will receive more flexibility to redesign the waiver and make it more available to families. The State needs more money from the Legislative to also assist with the waiver. Lastly, the Governor created a smaller parallel waiver for families so they do not have to wait as long. The state has paid for residency programs, free college, paying down college loans, endowments, signing bonuses for health care specialists and there are still no health care providers. Governor Lujan Grisham would like for the ADA Advisory Council to provide her or stakeholders with information on how to recruit and train specialist in the State of New Mexico.

- iii. How can the ADA Advisory Council support some of the initiatives that the Council would like to see down the line?
 1. Governor Lujan Grishman would like the ADA Council to meet with policymakers and members of the community to see what is needed to create livable communities. Make a list and number it from most important to least and send it to her office.
 2. Governor Lujan Grisham would like ten minutes set aside each meeting for the ADA Advisory Council to meet with her constituent service person and the Council can inform them of things they have been through or other have been through and the Governor's office will try to fix it.
 - a. The Governor will call the Mayor to see if the downtown accessible parking that was turned into a loading zone can be put back.
 - b. The Governor will also discuss Sun Van and the time limits with the Mayor.
- iv. With the new transition in leadership at the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) where do you see that agency going and what priorities do you see within DVR?
 1. The Governor expects DVR to provide good constituent services, move requests quickly, get contracts in place, so they are able to provide quick, reliable services. She would also like DVR to report back to her what the community needs and provide ideas on how to best serve the community.

II. Approval of Agenda

- a. Member King moved to approve the agenda, and Member van der Gaarden seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved by other council members.

III. Approval of Minutes for May 4, 2021 & June 1, 2021

- a. Member King moved to approve the May 4, 2021, minutes and Vice-Chair Davis seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a majority vote. Votes were as follows: Approved by Chair Loehman, Vice-Chair Davis, Members King and van der Gaarden. Member Mourning Brown abstained, as she was not present at the May 4, 2021, meeting.
- b. Vice-Chair Davis moved to approve the June 1, 2021, minutes and Chair Loehman seconded the motion. The motion was approved. Members Mourning

Brown, King and van der Gaarden abstained as they were not present at the June 1, 2021, meeting.

IV. Introductions

- a. All who were present introduced themselves.

V. Public Comment

- a. There was no public comment.

VI. Council Business

- a. Election of New Council Chair and Vice-Chair

1. Chair

1. Travis Davis was the only nominee. Chair Loehman called for a roll call vote, all members present unanimously approved Travis Davis as Chair.

2. Vice-Chair

1. Nominees included Kaatje van der Gaarden and Diane Mourning Brown. Both of the members gave brief statements about themselves. A roll call vote was then taken. Member Diane Mourning Brown was voted in as Vice-Chair with a 5-0 vote.


- b. Any Updates/Announcements from Council Members

1. Chief Medina will be a guest speaker at the August meeting.
2. Officer Vigil and Officer Nix from the APD Ambassador Program were present. The program was created to create clear, consistent lines of communication with different groups within the community who have not previously had a voice with the police. If Chief Medina runs out of time for the next meeting, they can come back to discuss the program with the Council.

VII. Adjournment

- a. The meeting adjourned at 6:42 pm.

The next regularly scheduled ADA Advisory Council Meeting will be Tuesday, August 3, 2021.



Travis Davis, Chair



Date

