

City of Albuquerque
Department of Senior Affairs
Advisory Council



Anna M. Sanchez, Director

1 Civic Plaza NW
Albuquerque, NM 87102

Bear Canyon Senior Center
4645 Pitt NE, 87111
Monday, February 24, 2025 at 12:00 p.m.
In-Person Meeting
<https://cabq.zoom.us/j/82252125767>

Minutes

- I. Meeting Called to Order by Chair Evan Thompson at 12:05 PM.
- II. Roll Call
 - a. Present:
 - i. Advisory Council Members: Steve Borbas, Lorey Esquibel, Louis Carlentine, Sheila Hundley, Ray Taylor, Havens Levitt, Evan Thompson, Henry Shonerd, Maria Martinez
 - ii. DSA Staff Members: Director Anna Sanchez; Shay Armijo; Marina Salazar; Timothy Martinez; Angel Montoya; Maria ReQua; Agnes Vallejos; Cristina Romero-Baca; Isaiah Valenzuela; Alan Armijo; Tyler Allison
- III. Approval of Minutes & Agenda
 - a. Mr. Shonerd motions to approve minutes, Dr. Hundley seconds. January Draft Minutes were approved.
 - b. Mr. Thompson motions to approve the February agenda; Mr. Borbas seconds. The February agenda was approved.
- IV. Public Participation
 - a. None.
- V. Bear Canyon Highlights – Tyler Dunn
 - a. Special Projects:
 - i. Working with City Councilor Dan Champine on updating audio system in both social halls.
 - ii. Friends of Bear Canyon group are helping fund a New Mexican-style mural.
 - iii. Starting February 26, 2025, Bear Canyon will be starting the process of accreditation.

1. Nationally-awarded event; only 300-400 senior centers are accredited nation-wide out of 6,00-7,000 senior centers.
- b. Upcoming Events:
 - i. February – April 2025, every Tuesday: AARP Tax Prep Services.
 1. 1,000 tax prep appointments occur at 7 DSA sites over the two and a half months the Tax Prep program runs.
 2. Currently full for Bear Canyon.
 - ii. March 17: St. Patrick’s Day Social.
 - iii. April 16: 3rd Annual Easter Event.
 1. Food trucks, photo booths, games, prizes, and other entertainment will be available.
- c. Bear Canyon statistics:
 - i. On average, 200 members visit a day (unduplicated visits).
 - ii. 300 new and renewal memberships were initiated last month.
 - iii. Currently, there are 2,000 – 2,500 active members for Bear Canyon.
 - iv. Fixed-route transportation available to take members to the senior center.
 1. Route includes drop-off around 8:00 A.M. for breakfast and takes members home after lunch around 12:00 P.M.
 - v. Most popular activity – exercise classes like Zumba.
 1. Working on expanding fitness programming.
 - vi. Bear Canyon is currently fully staffed.
 1. 7 full-time City of Albuquerque employees
 2. 40-50 active volunteers, who help with the front desk, in the kitchen, and with programs such as Computer Club, Friendship Coffee, and Dessert Socials.

VI. RSVP Program – Cristina Romero-Baca

- a. Retired and Senior Volunteer Program – part of the AmeriCorps Seniors program.
 - i. Membership is available to older adults aged 55 years and older.
- b. At today’s meeting to help enroll interested individuals who are not already members.
- c. RSVP Orientation is offered the second Tuesday of every month at 10:00 A.M. at Barelas Senior Center.
- d. March 9 – 15: AmeriCorps Week
 - i. As part of AmeriCorps Week, Volunteerism will be hosting a “AmeriCorps Seniors Volunteerism Fair and Pie Day” event at Manzano Mesa Multigenerational Center on March 14, 10:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.
- e. Mr. Taylor: “How are our volunteer hours tracked for other RSVP events?”
 - i. Cristina: Volunteers typically input their own hours into their AmeriCorps Seniors portal.

VII. Administration Report – Director Sanchez

- a. Coffee with Constituents started again for 2025.
 - i. Bear Canyon was first center to host, on February 13.

- ii. Would like to create a video montage of different activities offered at DSA Senior and Multigenerational Centers to illustrate all the programming that DSA offers.
- b. February 27: Capital Improvement Program budget meeting.
 - i. Departments present proposed projects to City Council. Approved projects will appear on November 2025 ballot.
 - ii. DSA's proposed projects:
 - 1. Funding for a new multigenerational center in City Councilor Klarissa Peña's district.
 - a. Proposed site is 15 acres in the southwest quadrant; closing on property this week.
 - 2. Northwest Multigenerational Center ("Cibola Loop") Phase I.
 - a. Large community pressure to open; currently working on opening timeline.
- c. The Area Agency on Aging provides funding at the federal level.
 - i. If federal funding cuts occur, DSA could see a 30% reduction in funding which would affect meal sites, meal programs, etc.

VIII. Committee Updates

- a. Age-Friendly Committee – Agnes Vallejos
 - i. Age-Friendly Action Plan has been updated for 2025 and approved by AARP.
 - 1. Reports to City Council on a quarterly basis.
 - 2. Has a strong partnership with Planning Department which helps ensure sustainability beyond current administrations.
 - ii. Housing Forward effort – exploring how to create more affordable housing throughout the city.
 - iii. Age-Friendly Action Plan is not just DSA-specific – it's a City-wide plan that includes planning with other City departments.
 - 1. Current priorities: housing, civic engagement, and transportation

IX. Announcements and Council Business

- a. New Advisory Council members will be attending next meeting on March 17.
 - i. Mary Nance – pretty robust background in healthcare IT.
 - ii. Erika Lohr - sales and marketing background
- b. Mr. Ray Taylor was invited to participate in Livability Partnership.
 - i. 80 people applied; Ray was one of 40 applicants selected.
 - ii. Overlaps with a lot of Senior Affairs/Age-Friendly projects.
- c. ORCA is having a Pie Day event at Balloon Fiesta Park on March 15.

X. Motion to Adjourn: Mr. Thompson motions to adjourn at 1:03 pm, Mr. Shonerd seconds. Meeting adjourned at 1:03 pm.