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| City of Las Cruces logo  Americans with Disabilities Act Advisory Committee Minutes | |
| Location: | City of Las Cruces City Hall, 2nd Floor, Room 2007-B  700 North Main Street  Las Cruces, NM 88004 |
| Date: | Thursday, May 2, 2024 |
| Time: | 1:30 PM – 3:00 PM |
| City Staff Present: | Saron McKee  Gail Estell |
| Members Present: | Isaac Taylor-Wise  Maureen Gant  Ronald Rivera  Susana Santillan  Jennifer Dahlgren |
| Members Absent: | Sharon Roybal |
| Others Present: | Two ASL Interpreters  Kay Lilly  George Pearson  Daisy (student) |

1. Call to Order: The ADA Advisory Committee meeting was called to order by Chair, Maureen Gant at 1:30 p.m.

1. Determination of Quorum: A quorum was present.
2. Introductions of ADA Advisory Committee Members. Members of the ADA Advisory Committee and City staff introduced themselves. Jennifer Dahlgren, new ADA Advisory Committee member was welcomed.

1. Approval of May 2, 2024, Agenda. Maureen Gant asked for changes to the agenda. Having no changes, a motion was made by Isaac Taylor-Wise and seconded by Susana Santillan to approve the agenda as written. Motion carried with all committee members present voting aye.

1. Approval of March 7, 2024, minutes. The minutes were sent out in advance of the meeting, so the reading of the minutes aloud was omitted by unanimous consent. Chair, Maureen Gant asked for any corrections to the minutes. Having no corrections noted, a motion was made by Isaac Taylor-Wise and seconded by Jennifer Dahlgren to approve the minutes as written. Motion carried with all committee members voting aye.

1. Old Business – None

1. ADA Committee Goals and Objectives

**Maureen Gant reported:**

**Goal I**

*Update City of Las Cruces ADA Transition Plan by: (a) continuing to track improvements to city buildings, facilities and public right-of-way, parks, and trails, (b) providing input and recommendations on priorities for ADA compliance, and (c) providing an opportunity for interested persons to participate in the development of the transition plan by submitting comments identifying barriers that may exist for persons with disabilities in accessing city-sponsored facilities or programs.*

The ADA Transition Plan is being implemented and the Liaison committee has been initiated. Liaison Committee held introductory meeting and training. It is made-up of representatives from each city department and a member of the ADA Advisory committee. Each representative will maintain a report on inquiries made within their department and serve as a representative to the coordinator when questions arise. The committee will meet quarterly to provide updates on progress and barriers and the implementation of the plan receive training and discuss ADA inquiries. Subcommittees have also been established. Subcommittees are as follows: ADA transition planning, consultant team, structural issues, GIS, policy and procedures, and ADA log. Additionally, one member will be the assistant to help put together those meetings.

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| **Public works:** |  |
|  | Telshor from Claude Dove to Doral Court.  This project is complete.  The city is to be commended for planning this work during a school break. |
|  | Ardis Drive (Don Roser Dr to Covina Blvd). Part of 2023-2024 Pavement Replacement Phase 1. Construction is 95% completed. Project estimated construction completion is 7/31/2024. |
|  | Sandigale Drive from Delano Drive to Crestview Drive. Part of 2023-2024 Pavement Replacement Phase 1. Construction is 95% completed. Project estimated construction completion is 7/31/20. |
|  | Dr. King Way from south Walnut Street to Stull Drive. Part of 2023-2024 Pavement Replacement Phase 1. Construction is 95% completed. Project estimated construction completion is 7/31/2024. |
|  | Monte Vista from S. Solano Drive to South Locust Dive. Part of 2023-2024 Pavement Replacement Phase 1. Construction is 95% completed. Project estimated construction completion is 7/31/2024. |
|  | Streets requiring construction or reconstruction: |
|  | Reconstruction of Bellamah Drive from Lees Drive to Luna St includes ADA ramps has begun with an estimated completion date of June 2024.  Construction is 52% complete. |
|  | Campo Street is in the 30% design phase with a targeted October 2024 start date. Esti-mated construction completion is Fall 2025. |
|  | Casa Linda Acres Reconstruction: Design is complete. Bid opening is on 4/2/2024. Estimated construction to begin in Summer 2024. |
|  | Cortez Drive Improvement: Design is 99% complete; pending lighting. Estimated construction to begin in Fall/Winter 2024. |
|  | Madrid Ave Extension (Evelyn St to Triviz Dr): The design phase is near 90% design review.  Estimated construction completion date is August 2025.  A public meeting was held at Loma Heights Elementary on Feb 13th to provide an in-person meeting to answer questions regarding the project, with an overview of the timeline, final design, new sewer, water gas lines and borrow pit location for hauling embankment solid for roadway realignment. |
|  | Midway Ave from Gas Line to Mesa Drive: construction is completed. Final inspection was performed on 3/7/2024. |
|  | Planning and scoping has been completed for improvements on South Main Street to Boutz.  Design is 88 % complete. Estimated construction completion is July 2025. |
|  | Construction of a portion of Sonoma Ranch Blvd from Sierra Ventana to Peachtree is 73 % complete. |
|  | 2023-2024 Pavement Replacement Phase 1. Construction is 95% completed. Project estimated construction completion is 7/31/2024. |
|  | 2023-2024 Pavement Replacement Ph 3: Design complete. Bid Opening was 3/19/2024. Estimated construction completion is Winter 2024. |
|  | Johnson St Rehabilitation (Rouault – Topley): Currently in 30% design review. Esti-mated construction completion is Spring 2025. |
|  | MedPark Ave (Idaho to Perkins): Survey Phase. Estimated construction completion is Fall 2025. |
|  | Construction Projects |
|  | Amador Dental Clinic—planning & scoping and design are 99% compete.  No additional updates. Construction is 60% complete. |
|  | Removal and replacement of existing asphalt and restroom at Parking Lot 7 is complete. |
|  | Municipal Service Center—Transit is under construction.  It is the operation and maintenance center for Roadrunner Transit system.  It includes electric charging stations. Construction is 60% complete. |
| **Facility Management** |  |
| **Projects completed** | Parking Lot #4 ADA painting, signage, and restriping; 7/19/2023 |
|  | Parking Lot #6 ADA, restripe, signage and painting; 9/8/2023 |
|  | City Staff ADA Access Elevator; 10/20/2023 |
|  | Museum of Nature and Science ADA Door Openers; 10/31/2023 |
|  | Visit Las Cruces ADA Door Openers; 10/31/2023 |
|  | City Council Chambers ADA Door Openers; 11/01/2023 |
|  | City Hall Parking Lot ADA Ramp Repairs; 12/19/2023 |
|  | Munson Parking Lot Improvement; 1/10/2024 |
|  | Henry Benavidez Parking Lot Improvement; 1/10/24 |
|  | Las Cruces Convention Center Ramp; 1/19/2024 |
|  | Frank O’ Brien Papen Center Sidewalk Replacement and Ramp; 1/19/2024 |
|  | Weed and Seed Sidewalk and Basketball Court Repairs; 1/26/2024 |
|  | Meerscheidt Rail and Sidewalk Repairs; 1/30/2024 |
|  | Library Back Entrance Ramp Access; 1/31/2024 |
|  | Downtown Sidwalk Paver Repairs; 1/31/2024 |
|  | City Hall Restroom Counter Hand Soap; 4/2/2024 |
|  | Jardin de los Ninos Cabinet and Roof Improvements; 4/2/2024 |
|  | City Hall Council ADA Latching Mechanism; 4/10/2024 |
|  | Jardin de los Ninos Front Door Repair; 4/12/2024 |
|  | Changing Tables; 4/18/2024 |
| **Pending Projects:** |  |
|  | Replacement of Water Fountains for all City Parks and Trails |
|  | LCPD Changing Tables |
|  | Downtown Bike Racks |
| **Upcoming Projects:** |  |
|  | City Hall Restroom Door ADA Openers |
|  | City Hall Fire Door ADA Openers |
|  | Fleet Locker Rooms ADA Compliant |
|  | Fleet Restrooms ADA Compliant |
|  | WIA Building ADA Ramp and Accessibility |
|  | Railroad Museum Walkway |
|  | Airport Changing Tables and Restrooms |
|  | Branigan Library ADA parking, painting, and re-curbing |
|  | Review of Lactation Rooms |
|  | Review of Gender-Neutral Restrooms |
|  | Records Center Ladder Lift |
|  | Casteneda ADA Door Opener |
| **Parks and Recreation** |  |
|  | Demolition of the old playground at A. Fielder Memorial Safe Haven and installation of a new playground began on Feb. 5th.  Ribbon cutting is scheduled March 22 from 3:00 to 5:00. |
|  | A new Skatepark will be built at the East Mesa Public Recreation Complex. A public Engagement Event was held Jan 10, 2025 to meet with a design consultant and City staff. |
|  | Progress on the East Mesa Public Recreation Complex is unavailable. |
|  | Young Park had irrigation improvements and upgrades with construction and excavation in certain areas. |
|  | Work begun on the northwest side Veteran’ Memorial Park Improvements.  Additional parking spaces will be built with an additional entrance to the parking area. Improvements will include construction of a contemplative garden, Improved drainage with a new main detention pond and water harvesting areas. |
|  | Project to enhance pedestrian and bicycle safety by improving infrastructure on Walnut, Kilmer, Evelyn, Poplar and Madrid Ave has been completed as part of the CLC Active Transportation Plan |
|  | Gallagher Park (137 W. Gallagher Ave ad Nina’s Place) construction work is under-way.  It includes demolition of aged swings, slide and safety surfacing.  New play equipment, safety surfacing, and benches will be installed. |
|  | In October 2022 the City Council unanimously approved a resolution to adopt master plans for Tony Gomez and Frenger Parks as well as Branigan Park.  The master planning effort to develop a vision for the overall, long-range development of the three parks. |

George Pearson: Picacho and 4th. Hawk system, City Council must approve the extension because the construction stalled waiting for materials that intersection is closed.

Kay Lilly: I remember when the skater community got together and showed up at a City Hall meeting advocating. It was an example of a community coming together in a community of people who are stereotyped and stigmatized, who you may not think of as active contributing citizens, and that was a great example of being able to advocate for change at that level so that that's awesome.

Discussion about accessible housing and percentages – HUD 5% and 2% set aside for hearing, speech, and deafness.

Kay Lilly: Asked if the changing tables were for children or adults. There aren't adult changing tables anywhere for folks with disabilities.

Saron McKee: One of the projects I worked on in Philadelphia was to get adult changing tables throughout different venues and it is something that we will look at here. It is not something that is yet on our list of working items. The tables we were talking about are child changing tables and they will be accessible.

**Goal II**

*Enhance City programs, policies, and procedures to improve access, participation, communication, and effectiveness for the disability community by: a. maximizing public input concerning the work of the committee and of the City as a governmental entity through effective communication and b. monitoring ADA complaints and direct them to the appropriate city staff.*

Discussion about Goal II. A motion was made by Susana Santillan and seconded by Isaac Taylor-Wise to **eliminate Goal II**. Motion carried with all committee members present voting aye.

The Committee would like to develop relationships with organizations that provide services for people with disabilities and increase participation with the public. Discussed tables in public venues, give aways, and free giveaways (1 pagers, literature from ADA centers, etc.) and funding for giveaways (to be obtained if possible). Add discussion under new business so this Committee can discuss presenters and tasks each quarter. Maureen Gant asked members to come up with other tasks and email them to Saron McKee and Maureen Gant.

**Goal III**

*Monitor emerging ADA laws, regulations, and policies for updates.*

**Reported by Maureen Gant**

In 2023 the EEOC required public service company of New Mexico to pay $750,000 to settle a disability and retaliation lawsuit because they did not accommodate qualified employees with disabilities who were returning from medical leave to come back to work unless they were released to full duty or that medical restrictions and discharged without reasonable accommodations.

The Census Bureau published a Federal Register notifying that they were going to replace the questions in the American Community Survey (ACS) to determine disability status. It is very critical because it's what goes into the census five years later that influences the kind of information that is gathered that determines funding for individuals. The ACS uses 6 questions. The answers are yes or no and a yes answer is counted as disabled. The Washington Group (WGSS) also asked 6 questions, but it relates to level of difficulty, from no difficulty to unable to do it all. A lot of people responded because they felt that that was going to significantly decrease the number of people identified as disabled from something like 14% to 8% and so the Census Bureau will go back to meet with these different entities and try to come up with a resolution.

Ron Rivera volunteered to report on Goal III.

1. New Business –
   1. 2024 Election of Officers - Tabled until next meeting. Saron will send out email asking for nominations for officers.
   2. Update Goals and Objectives – Goals and objectives for 2024 were discussed verbally and will be submitted in writing for a vote during the July meeting.
   3. Review Code of Conduct – Tabled to next meeting. Saron will send out COC prior to next meeting for review.
2. Transit Representative Update - Richard Hanway was not present.
3. Committee Member Input – Maureen Gant announced that Las Cruces police provided decals for people with Autism Spectrum Disorder to place on cars and on home windows so police would know that a person with ASD was in the house. LiftUp Las Cruces was nominated for the best neighborhood program award. Several agencies are hosting National Awareness Day May 7 for substance use disorders. In Albuquerque, a program called Destination Accessibility rents mobility equipment for tourist. This year marks the anniversary of the Olmstead Act. It ensures that people with Disabilities can live in the least restrictive environment possible. Jennifer Dalgren: for people who attend Deaf schools, institutions are often the least restrictive environment. Also, announced that there would be an event May 3, 2024, at the library recruiting special support specialist.
4. Public Comments/Announcements: Members of the public included the sign language interpreters, George Pearson, Kay Lilly, Daisy, and an unnamed man.

George Pearson: Suggested clarifying public comments so that it is clear to the public that they will have an opportunity to speak. A New Mexico Department of Transportation project from Main Street to New Mexico 28 that will be completely reconstructed has gone to bid. That project was completely reconstructing the main roadway, there will be bicycle lanes on both sides and a separate multi use trail along that entire length so about 1/3 of it is inside city limits.

1. Adjournment: Having all agenda items addressed, a motion was made by Susana Santillan and seconded by Isaac Taylor-Wise to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried with all committee members present voting aye. Meeting adjourned at 3:00 PM.

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Susana Santillan, Secretary Date