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MAYOR'S COMMITTEE ON DISABILITY
Thursday, January 21, 2016

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MAYOR'S COMMITTEE ON DISABILITY
Genoveva Chavez Community Center, Classroom 1
3221 Rodeo Rd.
Thursday, January 21, 2016, 10:00 AM

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Mayor's Committee on Disability meeting was called to order by Marcia Bowman, Chair, on Thursday, January 21, 2016, at 10:00 AM, at the Genoveva Chavez Community Center, Classroom 1, 3221 Rodeo Road, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

2. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT
Marcia Bowman, Chair
Dave McQuarie
Mary McGinnis
Aurore Bleck
Nancy Pieters
Michael Wirtz
Julie Tambourine
Coby Livingstone

MEMBERS ABSENT
Meriam Jawhar

OTHERS PRESENT
David Chapman
Kathlyne Gish
Tomas Martínez
Elizabeth Martin, Stenographer

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Mr. McQuarie asked that a report of the Chair's attempts to meet with Mr. Martínez at the Federal Highway Department be added to the agenda under New Business as item "E".

MOTION A motion was made by Mr. McQuarie, seconded by Ms. Pieters, to approve the agenda as amended.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

4. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES
November 19, 2015

Mr. McQuarie stated that on page 3, paragraph 1 he is shown as Ms. McQuarie instead of Mr. and on page 5, the 3rd paragraph from the end, McQuarie is misspelled.

Chair Bowman said on page 6 before item "C", Bowman is misspelled, on page 9 number 8 it should refer to next month instead of next week, on page 10 Ms. Livingstone's name is misspelled, on page 10, the 6th paragraph it should be fall prevention class and on page 11, the 4th paragraph from the bottom the reading was December 20th.

MOTION A motion was made by Mr. McQuarie, seconded by Ms. Pieters, to approve the minutes as amended.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

Kathlyne Gish said she was an intern with Mr. Chapman and hopes to be working with him soon. She will graduate in May. She will be attending the Mayor's Committee on Disability meetings and is happy to participate with this Committee. She thinks the Committee has done a lot and can do even more.

6. NEW BUSINESS

A) WELCOME ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEW MCD MEMBERS

Chair Bowman welcomed the three new members of the Committee, Coby Livingstone, Julie Tambourine and Michael Wirtz. She asked that the Committee each introduce themselves.

Mr. McQuarie said he has been on the Committee since the beginning and keeps track of ADA compliance issues and building related issues. He stays on the City to keep them compliant and is active on all disability issues. Nancy Pieters said she has been on the Committee for four years and used to be with the Department of Health and the Developmental Disabilities Division, Ms. Bleck said she moved to New Mexico twelve years and was involved in the Medical Cannabis campaign and then was put on the Transportation Advisory Board and has been on the Mayor's Committee for a year,

Chair Bowman said she is not disabled however, she works with patient rehab at the hospital and has worked specifically with disabilities for her entire career, Ms. Livingstone said she is an Occupational Therapist and glad to be on the Committee and is inspired by the Santa Fe City Council and this Committee, Mr. Wirtz said he has been a member of the Board for one day and is filling in for his wife who passed away in October and is a retired Forest Service employee and designed the Dale Ball Trail Systems and parts of the La Tierra Trail Systems. He also wanted to report that Mayor Gonzales proclaimed the 20th of December the Sharon O'Neill Wirtz Day and a bench was installed at the Frank Ortiz dog park in her memory. Ms. McGinnis said she worked at New Vistas for twenty seven years and wore many hats including counseling. She now has a small private practice. Ms. Tambourine said she has had several different careers. She was working for the airlines some years ago and was disabled on an airplane by pesticide poisoning and rated 100% physically disabled with an invisible disability. She is a mediator and mediates disability issues. She specializes in service animal law although she is not an attorney. She is studying law. She had brain damage and cognitive issues. She is on the Mayor's Committee to End Homelessness representing people with disabilities. She has worked with Green Build projects and would like to see the City mandate heathy construction. She trains service animals and works with their owners to train their own animal and is a Body For Life Champion. She does street outreach with people especially with Veterans who fall through the cracks. She has two service dogs of her own and two full size service horses. Mr. Chapman said he is the interim ADA Coordinator and has been since 2013 when Joseph Lujan retired. Ms. Gish said she is grateful to be here and to be doing this work. The last year was tough but she is now feeling some relief. She tells people about this group and encourages them to attend.

B) 5 YEAR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PLAN FY 2015/2016 - 2019/20

Mr. Chapman reported that Oscar Rodriguez, the City Finance Director, was called away to the Mayor's office and will not be able to be here. He will re-schedule Mr. Rodriguez along with the State Highway Engineer for the next meeting.

C) APPOINTMENT OF MCD VICE CHAIR

Chair Bowman reported that she had asked Ms. Bleck to serve as Vice Chair and Ms. Bleck has agreed to do so.

D) SUBCOMMITTEE APPOINTEES DISCUSSION

Chair Bowman said that the Committee has lost a few members and needs to add members to all three of the Subcommittees: Plan Review, Transportation and Media.

Ms. Tambourine volunteered to serve on the Media Subcommittee.

Ms. Gish said that she would like to set up a Facebook page for the Committee and maintain it.

Chair Bowman asked that they both serve on the Media Subcommittee.

Ms. Tambourine asked if she would then be the Chair of the Media Subcommittee since she is a member of the Mayor's Committee.

Chair Bowman said that is fine. She added that the Committee usually does a big media push in October for Disability Awareness.

Mr. Wirtz volunteered to be on the Transportation Subcommittee.

Ms. Livingstone volunteered to be on the Transportation Subcommittee.

Chair Bowman said that Ms. McGinnis is the Chair of the Transportation Subcommittee and their participation would be welcome.

Ms. Livingstone asked what is involved with the Plan Review Subcommittee.

Mr. McQuarie said they make suggestions on how they view the plans submitted, if they are complete or not and if they meet ADA guidelines. He can provide information for questions and rephrase the questions in the engineering manner necessary for staff.

Ms. Pieters said we look at City plans to see if they are accessible or how to make them more accessible.

Ms. Livingstone asked if the materials provided for the plans are written or diagrams.

Mr. McQuarie said by regulation, all Public Works projects are to be reviewed by this Committee and comments are to be made. A lot of times they do not submit plans. The plans could be anywhere from transportation to building refurbishment to public walkways. The minimum dollar amount is zero for sidewalks. Otherwise if the project is under $25,000 they don't have to submit the plan. If over they do have to submit the plan.

Mr. McQuarie said we are usually given a full set of geometric plans. We seldom receive text.

Chair Bowman said that would be challenging for visually challenged members.

Ms. Livingstone said she did not think she would try to tackle that.

Chair Bowman said it is not a disaster if there are only two people on the Plan Review Subcommittee.

Ms. McGinnis said they need a replacement for the ADA subcommittee which meets quarterly. Chuck was on that committee. Maybe Mike or Coby would be interested in that.

Ms. Bleck said it is topic driven. If there is no topic to discuss or work on, they don't meet.

Ms. McGinnis said usually if we have a problem we meet.

Chair Bowman said she will let the four members of the Transportation Subcommittee deal with that and Ms. McGinnis, as Chair, can ask someone if they would like to serve in that role.

Chair Bowman said Ms. Tambourine if you need any assistance feel free to ask for support.

E. REPORT ON THE DISCUSSION WITH THE FEDERAL HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

Chair Bowman said she had heard from Lisa Nye at the Federal Highway Department. Ms. Nye said she was not clear about what the problem was and hopes to go look at the issue soon. She set a date to meet and had to cancel due to a heavy snow storm. She has not heard anything else. It has fallen by the wayside again.

Mr. McQuarie said he had heard rumors about what was going on and thought the rest of the Committee should be aware.

Ms. Livingstone asked what the issue was.

Chair Bowman said it has to do with the Cerrillos Road and 2nd Street improvements.

Mr. McQuarie said it is the Indian Hospital walkway. There have been many injuries and one death at that site over the years.

Ms. Bleck asked who Lisa Nye was.

Mr. McQuarie said Lisa Nye is a Civil Rights Specialist for the local New Mexico Federal Highway Department.

Chair Bowman said she will follow up again

7. OLD BUSINESS

A) MCD SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Plan Review.

Mr. McQuarie said during the interim, he has only had one plan to review. He did review it and made fifteen observations. His comments are in writing and in the packet. The plan was for the Zia Railrunner Station. He sent his report back to Mr. Wilson at MPO. Two days later Mr. Wilson sent an answer to the other reviews but not this one. Are we being left out and if so why. If anyone has questions go ahead and ask. His reports are always in writing and submitted monthly and he welcomes questions.

Transportation.

Ms. Bleck said she has no taxi update. She did ride in a taxi cab that used to be assessable from Capital City Cab. She noticed that everything was good news from Annette regarding staffing when she spoke to the Committee. The conversation at the Transportation Advisory Board was marketedly different. Annette has four vacancies. One of the members said that is 24% of her workforce.

Ms. Bleck said she got a earful from a long time driver about issues. The Transportation Advisory Board is now going to get a monthly report of vacancies on any customer orientated positions. It will be a one page summary of what vacancies exist. It is a real problem

Mr. Martínez introduced himself as the Maintenance Manager for Transportation. He said even though we hire people it is a minimum of six weeks to get them trained to turn them loose. We usually have one or two people who leave during the six weeks. Annette brought that issue up at the Transportation Advisory Board to keep the pressure on to keep the hiring going. A lot of it is dealing with the union contracts, being safe with you guys and personnel rules and regulations. We have to do training.

Ms. Bleck said Annette did point out lack of drivers has caused increasing complaints and accidents. It is a big issue for people using Santa Fe Ride. If you want a specific time for a ride, you have to call two weeks in advance.

Ms. Gish said that violates Federal law. You are supposed to be able to call twenty four hours in advance.

Ms. Livingstone said she has lived in many states and cities and Santa Fe Ride is the best she has ever encountered. 99% of them are courteous to customers and each other. She is so pleased. This week was rough but that was partly her problem. In her experience she likes what they are doing. She is eager to work on any difficulties.

Chair Bowman said it is nice to know that even though there are challenges we are not the worst of the bunch.

Ms. Bleck said we have to have the drivers to support a safe system.

Ms. Pieters asked is there a way to correct this situation.

Mr. Martínez said Albuquerque encounters the same problems. A lot of it has to do with the workforce. Finding people who want to work and keeping them. Dependability is a big issue and funding is always an issue. We have no money to have people on standby.

Mr. McQuarie said in the past we have advocated for raises for drivers. Recently a driver told him they were told that if they wanted a raise they had to work through their union. They approached their union and were told they only get a raise if union requests it. The union representative said he was not eligible for a raise because he makes too much money now due to of all the overtime. The reason they have overtime is that they don't have enough drivers. He is being penalized.

Ms. Bleck said we talked at the Transportation Advisory Board about having a tiered system for drivers and salaries.

Mr. Martínez said Annette is working toward that now. She has two positions that she is trying to make into lead positions and he is doing the same. That gives the drivers somewhere to progress to.

Mr. Martínez said every year the union negotiates salaries with the City.

Mr. McQuarie said he knows that, but if they feel that way there is a morale problem.

Ms. Bleck said there definitely is a morale problem. If you only get one weekend off every two months you are exhausted.

Ms. McGinnis said she was wondering if it would do any good to talk with one of the union representatives.

Ms. Bleck said it is the City who does the hiring. We need the people doing the hiring to understand.

Mr. Martínez said getting qualified people is also an issue.

Chair Bowman thanked Mr. Martínez for his attendance and help.

Mr. McQuarie said the last time the Committee met, he asked about getting

decals or signs of the international symbol for all para transit vehicles. How is that coming along. It would not cost much.

Mr. Martínez said he will ask Annette about that this afternoon when he sees her.

Mr. Wirtz asked if the Santa Fe Ride and the senior services are free.

Ms. Bleck said no. Santa Fe Ride charges $2.00 a trip for disabled people. If they are not disabled and are a senior it is $5.00 a ride.

Mr. Wirtz said it seems to be a timing problem.

Ms. Bleck said in the middle of the day it is not as bad. From 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm is an issue.

Mr. Wirtz said he is sure there is always an immediate need for a driver. Can some of the taxi costs be offset.

Ms. Bleck said the Senior Van operates between 8:00 am and 5:00 pm, Monday through Friday. Their priority is doctors appointments, but they will take you shopping. They will take you to Target and drop you off and then you call and they will come pick you up.

Ms. Livingstone said that is a day ahead planning.

Ms. Bleck said they give priority to doctors appointments and sometimes they don't take other requests. Generally it is a day in advance. You do have to register with senior services.

Ms. McGinnis said it also costs $2.00 to get your picture taken.

Mr. McQuarie said he will try to clarify. There are two programs, Santa Fe Ride and Senior Ride funded by Federal regulation. Santa Fe Ride is para transit. The regulations say any City that has a city scheduled bus route must have para transit service and that is why they run weekends and evenings. Senior Ride is wholly funded by the Federal government, but they only have to operate when offices are open Monday through Friday, except holidays, and they cannot charge. They may request donations of up to .50 per ride. With para transit, they are allowed to charge up to twice the amount of the scheduled bus ride. That is how they came up with $2.00. It is up to the City. Some cities charge less. They are two different entities. Senior Ride is under Senior Services and they have complete say over that. They do not have a say over Santa Fe Ride.

Ms. Gish said she used to live in Seattle and they had no on demand rides. It is hard in Santa Fe because they are so booked. The City of Seattle had 50% off tokens

to take the cab. That is how they dealt with it. Also they had monthly passes for para transit. It supports working people. Costs build up.

Ms. Bleck said the bus system offers a $20.00 monthly bus pass. She wondered if they could do that for para transit.

Mr. McQuarie said they can do it. Years ago the City Council said you will serve seniors on demand which is not required by Federal regulation. That is why we have on demand. A few years ago our para transit would give curb to curb service. We got that changed to door to door. That helps. That service comes from the City not the Feds.

Ms. Gish said it supports people with disabilities who are working or going to school.

Ms. Tambourine said you have to fund it though.

Ms. Bleck said the next meeting of the Transportation Advisory Board is the 4th Tuesday in February. We can get an item on the agenda up to two weeks before that date.

Media

No report.

B) TAXI UPDATE

No report.

C) PROW TRANSITION PLAN UPDATE

Mr. Chapman said this is the Public Right of Way Transition Plan. He wrote out a Professional Services Agreement and it went out to bid. KFH was the successful bidder. An agreement was done and passed by Public Works and Finance and then the City Council on the 13th. The next step after the Mayor signs it is that he will Federal Express a copy to KFH that they will sign and return. He will set up a budget for the project and should be able to give notice to proceed within a couple of weeks. In the agreement they are required to make presentations of their plans and work. They have to make two to this Committee. There will be other opportunities to get further buy in as well.

Mr. McQuarie said he noticed on the agenda that it was automatically approved by the Council. He has some questions in the mandate. Did they mention that It would limit the public right of way to one specific item. If the road has sidewalks it is a public right of way. Public right of way includes roads with curbs or nothing including no

sidewalks. A lot of streets in Santa Fe don't have either. Is the consultant thinking of narrowing the definition.

Mr. Chapman said the RFP went out for all public right of ways. It is all inclusive.

Mr. McQuarie said it does not mention if streets don't have sidewalks.

Mr. McQuarie said you should put in all public right of ways but it only said public right of ways with sidewalks.

Mr. Chapman said he tried to be very mindful in capturing everything in the RFP. We will revisit that point. They are getting paid to survey all the City's right of ways and provide a report.

Ms. Livingstone said she was wondering how this information will help us.

Mr. Chapman said the plan is to make a survey and identify all the right of ways and what is not in ADA compliance. Then work up a system with priorities and feed that into projects and fund the projects to resolve those issues.

Ms. Livingstone asked is there a walkability group in town.

Mr. Chapman said the MPO is involved with walkability. He sent this information to Mark Tibbetts and his staff.

Chair Bowman said they are working on getting Santa Fe designated as a walkable city.

Ms. Livingstone said good.

Mr. McQuarie said it was in the paper recently that the City does not have money to fix sidewalks but the City does have an Ordinance on the books stating that the land owner is responsible for the repair of their sidewalks. If the existing sidewalk is not up to ADA standards the land owner may be charged for repair and replacement. But will the City Council do it. They may lose votes if they do that. In the past they have not done it. They do have that ability.

Mr. Chapman said he has seen several situations where people have taken care of it. The land owner paid to do it.

Ms. Bleck said landowners are required to clear their snow.

Mr. McQuarie said that is under the same section.

Ms. Bleck said it seems like for most landowners it would be a huge liability.

8. ITEMS FROM MEMBERS AND STAFF

Ms. Tambourine said she has a report on the good, bad and ugly around Santa Fe recently concerning discrimination and attitudes against people with disabilities. She went to a food bank and one of the volunteers threw her out of the food bank because she works at Whole Foods and sees her at Whole Foods. She is not allowed at food bank. She spoke with the Director and she took care of that. It shows you the perception. There is a need for education. Her landlord illegally overcharged her to bring her service dogs. She paid the extra money and then made an agreement with him that she would pay her deposit when she got her student loan money. The money was delayed. When the money did not come in immediately she was evicted. She is now living in her car because has not found a place that will accommodate her disability. She was referred to Need and Deed for assistance. The Director told her you have to come here three times, deemed eligible and prepare a budget for us. She did all of that. They made an appointment for her. She came to the appointment out of gas and food and the staff refused to see her. She asked to speak to the Chair person of the Board and he said staff should not have made an appoint with you. They refused to take her application for assistance. It came up that she was volunteering to help Veterans to get scholarships and housing. The Chair said you sound like an upper class Christian person, get out of here. That is terrible. It is discrimination. She was referred there by a disability organization. They refused her application. That is pretty ugly. It left me stranded in the cold.

Ms. Tambourine said then there is the really ugly of the Santa Fe Spa. She went to their gym by the Lodge. She was going in with her service dogs every evening. They told her no dogs. She met with the Manager three times. She explained to him the laws. She did go there on a temporary basis. When she tried to pay her membership the Manager said we have a right to refuse you membership. Also employees park their trucks in the handicapped spots there. She has mentioned this to the staff. They continue to use the handicapped spaces there. She has heard they are going to make a claim against her that her dogs pee in the shower area. She has no other place to take a shower. It is demoralizing and painful on many levels. It causes a crisis situation. It is the only gym she can tolerate in town.

Ms. Tambourine said the good is Michelle, the Director of St. Anne's Clinic. They usually help children. She was going to church doors to get help after she was thrown out of Need and Deed and ended up at St. Anne's. Michelle spoke to her and helped her to get emergency assistance. Food and gas. Dede the receptionist outside of this facility is new to the center. She met her recently when she came to take a shower. The holder for the shower handle was broken. If you have problems with mobility issues you can't take a shower. Dede was wonderful. She wrote a comment card for her because her disability caused he to be unable to write at that time. She wanted to recognize her for going out of her way. She wants to mention, and you probably heard

on the radio, that twenty two of our Veterans kill themselves every year. On Christmas Day she woke up to a beautiful sky and she was thinking about that and thought of all the incredible men and women who served our country who did not wake up and every hour and twenty minutes she thought about each one of those people. Please remember our forgotten Veterans who are disabled and still alive.

Mr. Wirtz asked will we review the Oscar item next month

Chair Bowman said will schedule both Mr. Rodriguez and the State Highway Engineer for the next meeting.

Chair Bowman said she is continuing with her fall prevention classes. She gave some details about the dates and times.

Ms. Bleck said regarding taxi cabs, we have a world class acupuncturist here, Dr. Howe. It was in the paper recently that he treats the Mayor's mother. He travels everywhere doing trainings. They are talking about instead of him having to travel everywhere we would have the trainings here. A lot of the people he treats are in wheelchairs. We really need that cab. This could be an incentive.

Mr. Chapman said Ms. Bleck has agreed to help us with a brochure. He is going to send her all the information.

Ms. Bleck asked what is she supposed to do with it.

Mr. Chapman said just plug in the information. We will work together on it.

Mr. McQuarie said to Mr. Chapman that he is depending on and needs his assistance to send out emails on plan reviews that are required. The second thing he wants to bring up is that we need to review and take to heart our Committee proposal on etiquette. The term is Persons with Disabilities, not handicapped.

Chair Bowman said on January 7th there was a picture of Mr. McQuarie on the front page of the paper. She showed the paper to the Committee.

Mr. McQuarie said that is where he spoke as a citizen at the Council meeting. It was regarding the Gas tax. It did not pass and will not be on the ballot. Three Councilors voted for it and the others against. He spoke against it.

9. ADJOURN

9. ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 11:50 am.

Marcia Bowman, Chair

Elizabeth Martin, Stenographer