



Agenda 7/6/17 TIME 11:22a

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**MAYOR'S COMMITTEE ON DISABILITY
THURSDAY, JULY 20, 2017
10:00 A.M.
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
200 LINCOLN AVENUE, SANTA FE, N.M.**

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. ROLL CALL
3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA
4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: FOR THE MAY 18, 2017 MEETING
- 4B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: FOR THE JUNE 15, 2017 MEETING
5. PUBLIC COMMENTS (15 MIN. TOTAL)
6. NEW BUSINESS
 - a) HOMELESSNESS – HANK HUGHES, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR NEW MEXICO COALITION TO END HOMELESSNESS
 - b) A LOCAL PERSPECTIVE ON HOMELESSNESS – KATHLYNE GISH
7. OLD BUSINESS
 - a) MCD SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS
 - b) CERRILLOS ROAD AND SECOND STREET LETTER FOLLOW-UP – AURORE BLECK
 - c) ADA COORDINATOR REPLACEMENT – AURORE BLECK AND DAVE McQUARIE

ITEMS FROM MEMBERS AND STAFF (3 MINUTES)

8. ADJOURN

NEXT MEETING AUGUST 17, 2017;

PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES IN NEED OF ACCOMMODATIONS, CONTACT THE CITY CLERK'S OFFICE AT 955-6520, FIVE (5) WORKING DAYS PRIOR TO MEETING DATE.

THIS IS A FRAGRANCE FREE MEETING

****Please notify Aurore Bleck, Chair at (505)473-2060 and/or David A. Chapman, ADA Coordinator/Liaison, at (505)955-2012 if you are unable to attend.**

SUMMARY OF ACTION
MAYORS COMMITTEE ON DISABILITY
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
200 LINCOLN AVENUE
THURSDAY, JULY 20, 2017

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**ITEMS FROM MEMBERS
AND STAFF**

INFORMATION/DISCUSSION

10

NEXT MEETING

AUGUST 17, 2017

10

ADJOURN

ADJOURNED

10-11

**MAYOR'S COMMITTEE ON DISABILITY
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
200 LINCOLN AVENUE
THURSDAY, JULY 20, 2017, 10:00 AM**

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Mayor's Committee on Disability was called to order by Aurore Bleck, Chair, at 10:00 am on Thursday, July 20, 2017, at the City Council Chambers, 200 Lincoln Avenue, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

2. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT

Aurore Bleck, Chair
Dave McQuarie, Vice Chair
Michael Wirtz
Kathlyne Gish
(2 vacancies)

MEMBERS ABSENT

Julie Tambourine, Excused
Nancy Pieters, Excused
Meriam Jawhar, Excused

OTHERS PRESENT

David Chapman, ADA Coordinator, Staff Liaison
Hank Hughes, NM Coalition to End Homelessness
Valarie Romero, Telephonically, Applicant for Board member
Richard Mohr-Kelly, Applicant for Board member
Elizabeth Martin, Stenographer

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chair Bleck asked to move items 6 A and B up to under approval of agenda.

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

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Mr. Chapman said Valarie Romero is joining our discussion telephonically.

Everyone introduced themselves.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MAY 18, 2017

Chair Bleck said on page 1, Julie Tambourine was excused, on the bottom of page 2 it should be Google, on page 4 remove that there was a video on second street issue and on page 6 regarding Community Day, she was also there.

MOTION A motion was made by Mr. McQuarie, seconded by Mr. Wirth, to approve the May 18, 2017 minutes as amended.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

JUNE 15, 2017

MOTION A motion was made by Mr. McQuarie, seconded by Mr. Wirth, to approve the June 15, 2017 minutes as presented.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ms. Romero asked can we start a discussion about the treatment of foster kids and the mentally retarded. There is a process on one side and people on the other side. The process was meant to protect. We need to improve the processes so individuals can have respect and public accommodations across the board. Every voice matters. She wants to project the voices that are not heard. Behavior is not mental health. Studies are proving that people can make progress in life even with issues. They just need access to core services. She would like to see a discussion about why behavior is not mental health.

6. NEW BUSINESS

A. HOMELESSNESS - HANK HUGHES, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, NEW MEXICO COALITION TO END HOMELESSNESS

Mr. Hughes said he appreciates being here. The Coalition is a group of 70 agencies in New Mexico that house or shelter homeless people or help in other ways. He started at St. Elizabeth's shelter, became the Director and then formed the Coalition partly to work on Federal funding to make sure we were getting our fair share in New Mexico and to lobby. The Coalition began in 2000 and he became its Director in 2001, 16 years this month. A lot has changed but a lot has stayed the same unfortunately. The Federal Government requires us to keep a database of homeless services in the State. A little over 14,000 homeless were served by our participating agencies in 2016. They were seeking shelter or other housing options. Of those, 62% have a serious health or mental health situation based on the data they give us when they come for help. That indicates that when you have trouble with your health or mental health you are more likely to be in danger of losing your housing. Homelessness disproportionately affects Native Americans and African Americans in New Mexico. 16% of the homeless in the State are Native American while Native Americans are only 10% of the population. 8% are African American while African Americans are only 3% of the population in our State. Anglo and Hispanic are about equally divided. One of the things he realized when he ran a shelter is that shelters are not a very good solution for homelessness. People can't put their life together in a shelter and often it leads to a deterioration of mental conditions. People choosing to sleep outside do so for various reasons such as they do not do well in a place full of people they do not know. Housing is a very good response. One of our main focuses is to increase housing options. When he started the State had 400 places for homeless disabled, now there are 2,500 housing options. That is around half of what we need. We would like to have 5,000 places for people with disabilities who need permanent housing.

Mr. Hughes said recently we started a system of coordinated assessment. Every person seeking housing gets a uniform assessment of their condition and that creates a priority list for permanent supportive housing. The advantage of this is that we can see that people with the greatest needs are not overlooked. Some people who were not good advocates for themselves were not getting the housing slots. This levels the playing field a bit. It also points out the need for more housing spots. We have about 70 people who are eligible for housing and don't have it at the moment. We are working on using the low income tax credit project. The State usually funds 5 spots a year with that. We are trying to make sure we get 2 or 3 of the 5 projects a year to include permanent supportive housing. Right now in Santa Fe we have the Stagecoach Apartments and the Village Sage Apartments where 1/4 of the units are dedicated to homeless seeking housing. They are a great model. People are paying real rent in the other units so the units are kept looking nice. The supportive housing rent is kept low. The retention rate is very good. Agencies have gotten really good at addressing issues so people don't lose their housing. We would like to do another project in Santa Fe. Maybe with a front desk to help serve those with mental health issues or substance abuse so that they can handle situations and keep drug dealers out. We are partly there toward ending homelessness but not nearly where we want to be.

Mr. McQuarie said you said 16% of the homeless are Native American. This

being a State where we have 7 reservations does that have any impact on your percentage.

Mr. Hughes said the fact that we have a lot of Native Americans to begin with relates to the high percentage. The relationships to the reservations are tricky. Some of the reservations are dry so people are either voluntarily leaving the reservation or getting kicked out. That leads to people being homeless in Santa Fe and even more so in places like Gallup.

Mr. Chapman asked how does Santa Fe stack up to other cities our size.

Mr. Hughes said we are proud of Santa Fe. There are a lot of services here. We don't just serve homeless people who became homeless in Santa Fe. We serve the whole area of Northern New Mexico. There are always some passing through as well. In terms of comparing Santa Fe to Las Cruces, Santa Fe has more services and Las Cruces has more homeless people.

Mr. Chapman said you said 62% have serious conditions. Does that mean they suffer from a disability.

Mr. Hughes said not quite. Some of those conditions could be like diabetes.

Mr. Chapman asked do you have the percentage who are disabled.

Mr. Hughes said he thinks about 30%.

Chair Bleck said we are concerned that some of the disabled homeless may have special needs. With this new assessment tool you may be picking up on those things. Do you think there are some who are disabled who need additional support.

Mr. Hughes said yes. Julie Tambourine, who is on this Committee, has talked to him a lot. We have others with environmental disabilities who have special issues with housing. Just because the housing is new does not mean they won't have trouble living there. People have a lot of different needs. Everyone is an individual. Someone with an environmental illness may have lots of other strengths but that makes housing really hard for them. Everyone's needs are special.

Mr. Wirth asked does your work include working with folks on Section 8 housing.

Mr. Hughes said we try to get people housed in Section 8 housing. There is a limit to the assistance after they are housed so we have to be sure they are ready to be that independent before we house them in those sites.

Mr. Wirth said he has a friend who is currently homeless. He housed her at his house for 2 or 3 weeks. She has been on Section 8 for years but had to leave the last

place she was living. She is trying to find suitable housing. She has an environmental illness. She has been approved for tiny house and a piece of land. Do you work with these people.

Mr. Hughes said not as much as we should be. The living situation you described is not deemed homeless by the Federal Government. They are not deemed at as high a priority as someone living on the street or in a car.

Mr. Wirth said she will be homeless soon.

Mr. Hughes suggested that he contact Laura at Lifelink. Personally he is a bit sensitive to chemicals as well. They set off his allergies. He is sympatric . She will have to try places to see if she can live there.

Mr. Wirth said she has looked at several that have not worked out.

Mr. Hughes said you have a good point. In Santa Fe we generally have clean air so people move here but we don't have the housing for them.

Chair Bleck asked are there things this Committee could help with.

Mr. Hughes said if we start on a new project with mixed income housing your input would be helpful. If we could somehow include the chemically sensitive that would be good. Anything you can think of would be helpful. When we have plans he will come to this Committee and see what you think.

Mr. Hughes said people need to know how to make the living spaces friendly to those with disabilities.

McQuarie said we just want to be able to get to the apartment.

B. A LOCAL PERSPECTIVE ON HOMELESSNESS

Ms. Gish said before living here she and her mom lived in a City where landlords could not say they would not rent to Section 8. That is not the case here. We lived in 2 tax credit buildings both of which were not maintained. Management did not control the drugs or crime. We complained constantly. We had to get out and moved twice. It took 2 months to find someone willing to rent to Section 8 in 2010. She and her mom ended up homeless for 2 months. They had all their stuff in storage and she was in school. She was a straight A honor student. They have a perfect credit score if we had money to buy house we could have. Everything became a catch 22. We literally were 1 week away from losing our voucher when we found our current landlady. She was unsure about the program. She was not sure or trusting of the program. There is a stereotype of a Section 8 person that everyone thinks of when they hear it. In that 2 months we

called every rental we could. We got messages like you will destroy our apartment or you will bring your friends around and do drugs. We have no criminal history or any connection to drugs. We even went to see apartments thinking we will tell them after that we are Section 8 so they can see us but the second that was brought up they showed us the door. That is also true of SSI. When we said we were both on SSI we were told that the property manger wanted employed only. That is why we were homeless for 2 months. We really struggled. All of that led her into doing an in-depth look at homelessness in the City. Still there is Section 8 discrimination in the City. There is nothing that disallows source of income to be discriminated against. There are 12 states that disallow that. The State laws need to be changed and be updated. Another issue that she has been researching lately is the issue that people on SSI have to pay pro rata rent. If you live with someone else you are required to pay half rent, bills and food. If housing was more affordable maybe that would work. If they can't pay there are penalties. These are Federal laws. If a chance comes around to update SSI law speak out about it. There are so many issues where the disabled are punished when trying to live independently. It is horrific to her. That is a quick summary of what she wanted to say. Her opinion is what would solve a lot of this is income being protected as a source of discrimination. We are literally terrified to move. Her mom can't go up and down stairs like she did 7 years ago so has to live in living room. Homewise told us they could not help us because her mom has student loans. She has been trying to get those student loans disbanded. Her student loan was \$17,000 and she now owes \$75,000 of interest and \$35,000 of income taxes.

She was able to get her mom on IBR, income based repayment for student loans. It seems like all of the issues are interconnected. As far as homelessness that is her issue. A senior housing site in Santa Fe was recently bought by someone and has new management. When her mom called to ask about senior housing they said she had to earn \$1,800 a month minimum to live there now even if she qualified for Section 8. Maybe that person was uneducated about Section 8 but if that is what is true there that is a problem. They are low income tax credit apartments. The other issue is that all the places her mom has called for senior housing have at least a one year wait. When you get a voucher you have 60 days to use it.

Chair Bleck said the State law is something we may be able to look at.

Ms. Gish said that would help.

Mr. Hughes said he knows a State Senator who would probably take that up.

Ms. Gish asked if she could contact Hank and talk about it.

Mr. Hughes said yes of course. It seems like that would be hard for apartment complexes to lobby against that. We might be able to help get that done and we would be interested in working with you on that.

Chair Bleck said we all would be interested in working with you about that.

Mr. Hughes said going to hearings and talking about it is what we need to do. When you were homeless did you seek help from any local agencies.

Ms. Gish said Lifelink but at the time they had a lack of funding. The only help they could provide was help with deposits.

Mr. Hughes asked where did you live when you were homeless.

Ms. Gish said she couch surfed. She had a cat so we stayed at friends houses. She knows that is not technically homeless but it is homeless. It was hard to be in school. She had to drop classes because she had no internet. It is hard to find a house when you don't have a home and no land line. There are so many issues that go along with that. Lack of transportation. Neither of us drive. We had to get friends to take us to see apartments. She does not think anyone should have to go through what she and her mom went through.

Mr. Chapman asked can you recommend any readings.

Mr. Hughes said the National Alliance to End Homelessness has a lot of items to read about homelessness and research basic solutions.

Ms. Gish said she has an article she will email to Hank from The Atlantic about housing policies. It talks about the states and cities that are passing Ordinances that keep landlords from discriminating due to source of income.

Chair Bleck said thank you so much Mr. Hughes. Let's stay in touch.

Mr. Hughes said there are lots of things we can work on together.

7. OLD BUSINESS

A. MCD SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Plan Review

Mr. McQuarie said technically he did not have plans to review. However, he wrote 2 letters and sent them out to the Governing Body and the City Manger and the designer of the bus shelter project. He has not received any response from the City Manager. Even at the last Council meeting he mentioned that and he said apparently it is the practice of the City Manager to ignore the disabled. No response. The bus shelter is not being reviewed for ADA compliance. He heard that they are going to and have scheduled a plan review for Monday. We will see. The things he asked for in the

letter are specifically mentioned and shown in the 2010 ADA manual. Lastly we currently have a procedure or ongoing project with the City about curb ramp overlays. They said they did them. They said they are not in the right of way. If that is the case then why do they allow pedestrians. The City should stop all pedestrians, not just people with disabilities. The City Engineer doing this work has stopped things for disabled people over and over. He does want to request that David Chapman, as our City Liaison, please notify engineering that we have not accepted the curb ramp for 2014 and we have told them over and over again and they still will not address the deficiencies. What is the reason for this continuous discrimination.

Transportation

Chair Bleck said at the Transportation Advisory Board we discussed the suspension of the rider who appealed the decision we discussed at our last Mayor's Committee meeting. Dave McQuariewas concerned that he get information on next steps because that was not in the letter she sent. In the next letter Mr. Martinez stated the next steps if he wanted to appeal.

Chair Bleck said at the June meeting we found out that after the MPO decision to find funding for the Second Street bus stop they have once again lowered the price. Now they being forced to find the money. The new budget is \$1.25 million.

B. CERRILLOS ROAD AND SECOND STREET LETTER FOLLOW UP

Chair Bleck said the Committee wrote a letter to MPO and Transportation. She went to the MPO Technical Review meeting and our letters had clearly done something. She made a brief presentation. When they started discussing the item on the agenda Mr. Wilson said the week before they had met on funding for this project so they are working on it. The NMDOT guy, Paul Brasher, gave her a lengthy explanation of the project and how difficult it was but they are putting funding for it in for FY 2018. They have to amend that budget by August. They are supposed to do that. She asked when they are actually starting. He committed to a November 2018 start date. This is in the official MPO meeting minutes. It is a step forward. We will keep our eyes on it.

C. ADA COORDINATOR REPLACEMENT

Mr. McQuarie said he went to the City Council meeting. They talked about this person being under Engineering which he thought was wrong. It should be independent. Apparently that did not work out because the latest is that it is under Engineering but they are calling it Roadways but it has the same effect. He does not think anything will happen.

Chair Bleck said let's invite the City Manager to come discuss the position with this Committee.

Mr. McQuarie said request his presence.

Mr. Chapman said he attended his first staff meeting now that he is also under Engineering. He received an organizational chart that separates the position. He will be doing the position of Grant Writing and Administration that he has been doing. They do have on the chart the ADA Coordinator under the Roadway and Drainage section with an engineer, David Quintana, as the Supervisor. Also the position has not been advertised yet. It is funded for 2018. He expects that to be forthcoming this month. He will keep the Committee posted.

8. ITEMS FROM MEMBERS AND STAFF

Mr. Wirtz said the letter this Committee approved and signed and sent to City Councilors and The Mayor regarding IPM and following the Ordinance also requested that Mr. Lucero set up quarterly meetings with us. He has not heard back from Mr. Lucero. He will get on phone and try to rattle his cage. In the meantime another member of the Coalition Against Pesticides, Majorie Young, mailed a letter to Lucero requesting information about the treatment of weeds and pests and so forth within the City. She got in return basically the IPM plans and the plans pertaining to the Santa Fe Community Convention Center, the Public Utilities Department Building, Genevova Chavez and the Municipal Recreation Center. Nothing about spraying the medians. He said any information for professional service agreements has to be obtained from the City Attorney's Office so we don't have copies of the contacts with the pest companies. We don't know what is being sprayed. Several months ago the City did pass a budget and in it was \$200,000 to hire seasonal employees to do weed control by hand. He has noticed that they have in fact gone in with weed whackers and no chemicals. He feels hopeful that they are following the IPM.

Mr. Chapman said he is pleased to have Richard here today. He had an appointment with the Mayor on Monday to review the applications. He got notice to proceed with Richard. His paperwork has gone to the City Clerk who will put him on the agenda for the City Council meeting. Hopefully he will be heard on Wednesday, July 26th, here. He will call him to let him know if he is on the agenda. He does not have to be here. He hopes to get the Resolution done before he leaves this Committee. He will keep the Committee posted on that.

Mr. Wirth said he and all of the Committee members received the code of ethics form that has to be signed and send in to the City Clerk.

Chair Bleck thanked Richard for joining us and asked if he had anything he wanted to add.

Mr. Mohr-Kelly said he is curious to learn what happens in New Mexico to help disabled students transition from high school to college.

Ms. Romero said as a student with a disability she does not see post traumatic stress disorder as a disability. It has helped her. Can we use another term when referring to the students. She in need of accommodations as a student. She wants to get away from the language of calling people disabled.

Mr. Mohr-Kelly said another interest is he is an oil painter and that is his hobby. In the previous City he lived in they had an art show that featured disabled artists.

Chair Bleck said that would be interesting.

Mr. McQuarie said his letters about the bus stop and about the intersection of Cerrillos and the new bus site have not been answered. They must have an approved plan. In Monday's New Mexican there was an article in there about a new City Trail on the NW side. The City is in favor of it but a lot of locals are up in arms about the proposal. They are hiring their own architect who is going to stress ADA accessibility. Apparently the trail the City is going for is not really ADA approved. He is wondering what the story is. If they don't give us plan we can't review it. It might interest you to follow up on that and contact Councilor Maestas who is Chair of BTAC.

Mr. Wirth said will do.

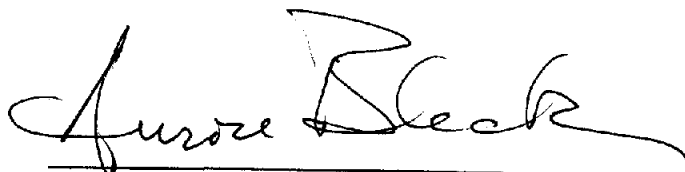
Ms. Romero said she was wondering if this Committee has anything to do with the sustainable land use code where the City intersects the County. We need to look at how that impacts us. We have a multicultural heritage. She has had to request accommodations throughout school. Regarding public accommodations are they being tracked in institutional facilities. She is having to repeatedly explain at banks and other institutions why she needs accommodations. She wanted to put that out there. Also we need other interperations of the language including braille and sign language. She would like to submit some information to Mr Chapman for consideration for this Committee to addresses. Also the signage. We used to be the model State for mental health and access. We need to stand together and make sure things are in a format that everyone understands. Our multiculture and multigenerations need to be respected. We need to highlight abilities not disabilities. That is how she hopes to contribute.

Chair Bleck said Councilor Maestas came out in support of the 2 cent gas tax for roads and sidewalk improvements. He wanted us to find a long term funding mechanism for public right of way improvements. Maybe this is it.

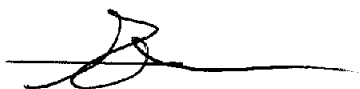
**9. NEXT MEETING
AUGUST 17, 2017**

10. ADJOURN

There being no further business before the Committee the meeting adjourned at 11:35 am.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Aurore Bleck", written over a horizontal line.

Aurore Bleck, Chair

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Elizabeth Martin", written over a horizontal line.

Elizabeth Martin, Stenographer