

ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

February 24, 2005

2:00 P.M.



MINUTES

I. Welcome/Roll Call

COMMITTEE MEMBER	PRESENT	ABSENT	
		Excused	Unexcused
Eric Reed, Dist. 3, <i>Chairperson</i>	X		
Vacant, Mayor's Appt.			
Olivia Chavez, Dist. 1		X	
Vacant, Dist. 2			
Donald J. Seeley, Dist 4, Co-Chairperson	X		
Fred Gromand, Dist. 5	X		
Martin Wagner, Dist. 6		X	
Enriqueta Natividad, Dist. 7	X		
Ernesto Armendariz, Dist. 8	X		
Bill Bennett, ADA Coordinator	X		
Martha Macias, ADA Interpreter		X	
Juan Gonzalez, ADA Secretary	X		
Ruby B. Ransom (Mr. Reed's Assistant)	X		
Steve Burman, Human Resources	X		
Sergio Reyes, Traffic Eng. Div.	X		
James W. Peterson, Sun Metro	X		
John F. Nance, City Attorney's Office	X		

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion was made, seconded, and passed to approve minutes of January 27, 2005

III. DISCUSSION AND ACTION

A. Supportive Employment.

A follow-up with the supervisors of the departments that participated in the program indicated that the program was a success. The departments that participated were Sun Metro, Police, Human Resources and Zoo. The current objective is to find a funding source to continue and sustain the program. The program success and proven record should help obtain funding for the program. The interest in the program was far greater than participants availability. Congressman Sylvester Reyes will be made aware of the program and its success.

B. Ordinance Amendment for Barrier Free Construction.

A meeting that was attended by Eric Reed, Chairperson, City Representative John Cook, and representatives from the Builders Association showed a strong interest to get the program started. The five items (no step entry, 36 inch doors, support behind the walls in the restroom, 36 inch halls, lever handled door hardware, and light switches and outlets at certain heights) will be discussed during an upcoming meeting with the Builders Association. Community Development is looking for ways in which their funds could be used to remove barriers in housing without requiring the complete home renovation.

C. Audible Traffic Control Devices.

The priority one intersections at Washington and Paisano; and Alameda and Boll are currently being worked on. The work includes installation /repair of the sidewalks and curb ramps. The audible messages for these intersections are being specially programmed because of the long walking distance in crossing these intersections. The intersections should be completed next month. The CD Steering Committee approved \$425,000 for the priority two and three intersections. The intersections will go to Council on March 8, 2005 for their approval. A substantial amount of the money approved must be spent by the end of June. Comments or suggestions for the criteria to evaluate the sites for placement of audible pedestrian signals are still being sought. A meeting with committee members will be held to determine the evaluation criteria.

D. Sensitivity and Accessibility Training for the Mayor and City Council.

Discussion about having training for more than one council to be trained was conducted. A motion was made, seconded, and approved to have training for incoming mayors and council if the wording in the resolution passed by Council allows for the training. The training will involve a morning session, that deals with correct vocabulary and actions, and an afternoon session, that will require the participants to experience a disability and perform a task.

E. Transition Plan for the City of El Paso

A public hearing was held on February 5, 2005 meeting regarding the Transition Plan. Excellent input was received from the community. Only a few surveys were received from the individuals who attended. .

F. Discussion on goals and objectives for committee for this year!

Members of the committee were asked to consider what priority issues they wanted to deal with over the next year and discussion and action will take place next meeting.

G. Complaints regarding ADA/Accessibility Compliance

1. Formal complaints

One complaint was received regarding the employees and the restroom facilities at the North East Golden Corral. The complaint will be investigated and be forwarded to the appropriate agencies for correction if required.

2. Informal complaints

The Accessibility coordinator was asked if any complaints about the police department had been received about their handling of cognitive and hearing-impaired individuals. (None received)

A complaint about the Walgreen store on McRae was investigated and found to have the accessible route pass behind three parked vehicles. Walgreen's will be put on notice.

H. Plan Reviews

1. Major Public Access Commercial Facilities

None

2. Municipal Projects

None

I. Next Meeting Agenda, Date and Location

The next meeting will be March 31, 2005 at 2:00 pm on the 8th floor conference room.

The Disabled Volunteer Parking Patrol Sub-committee will meet at 1:00 pm at the same time and location.

IV ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Bob Gott is the new CD Grants Administrator.
- The Grants Planner section has been moved from Socials Services Section to the Grants and Programs Administration section.
- The Social Services Administrator Position will not be filled.
- Freddie Dowling will be return in March.
- The Community Development Steering Committee will review the 31st Year Public Facilities Proposals on March 3, 2005 at 5:30 pm in the City Council Chambers.
- The CD Steering Committee approved \$425,000 for the second and third priority Audible Pedestrian Signals, and an additional \$200,000 for the Curb Ramp on Demand program for this year.
- Donald Seeley was congratulated on his nomination as volunteer of the week by the El Paso Times.

V. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting Adjourned at 4:20 pm

Eric Reed, Chairperson

William Bennett, Accessibility Coordinator