

ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes



Date & Time: Thursday, Mar 28th, 2019 from 2:30-4:00 P.M.

Location: 10151 Montana, Sun Metro Operations Cetner

Agenda Minutes

I. Welcome/Roll Call

Meeting was called to order at 2:37 pm with following members present. Committee introduced themselves, as well as city employees that were present.

Member	Appointment	Present
Marc Salazar	District 1	Present
Crystal Garcia	District 2	
Michelle Adjemian	District 3	Present
Jose Martinez	District 4	Present
Vacant	District 5	
Mary Castillo	District 6	Present
Josue Rodriguez	District 7	Present
Kimberly Shaw	District 8	
Vacant	Mayor	
Julio Perez	Secretary	Present
Omar DelaRosa	Legal	

II. Call to the Public – Public Comment

Michelle Adjamian – AAC flyers have been posted. Sun Metro approved them even though they were considered ‘marketing’

III. Business Items

Approval of Feb 28th Minutes – approved unanimously.

IV. Discussion

A. Bus Stop Enhancement Update

Michael Villa:

- Still in the process of getting a contractor in place – should be very soon.
- Surveying additional sites to be ready for the contractor.
- Up to 174 sites inspected and ready for the contractor – once in place.

B. Discussion/update on District Representative meetings

No updates – Josue Rodriguez committed to providing an update next month.

C. Presentation of Project Amistad Services

Jose Martinez from Amistad:

- Transportation
 - o Medicaid Transportation for eligible passengers – medical/doctor/prescriptions/therapy/rehab
 - Mile Reimbursement through Medicaid
 - o 5310 County Transportation allowing folks to come into the City for services
- ADTRC (an extension of 211)
 - o It's an information and referral dept. for community services
 - o Has a 'Housing Navigator' specialist to promote more affordable and accessible units
 - o Local Contact Agency Navigator – to promote and provide services to transition into community (Transitional services)
- Agua Care
 - o A program to help individuals 60+ to pay for water bill
- MedBook – A Medicare savings program
 - o Assistance to pay for their part 'B' premium
 - o Long-term services support, CHIP, food stamps, housing, etc.
- Peer-Support Specialist Program
 - o Recruiting and training mentors to educate those who are institutionalized
- Guardianship Program
 - o 12 case managers to help provide financial advice
- Money Management Program under CDBG
 - o Provides money-management counseling
- Veteran Services
 - o Family Counseling
 - o Veterans Navigator – general assistance for veterans and spouses

D. Presentation on ADA Training

Julio Perez

- Advocacy – what can people do to make sure entities are accessible? If any private business is not complying with ADA – approach the business owner and attempt to resolve the issue directly. If they don't help or assist, you can file a complaint with ADA.
 - o A business that provides services to the public, have to ensure those services

are accessible. If any service is not accessible, upon request, they must provide reasonable modification.

- ADA compliance is a federal law – the City has no jurisdiction over the private sector. The City’s ADA coordinator can only assist with City department-related issues (i.e. libraries, parks, City buildings, etc).
- The ADA coordinator is there to make sure that the City as a service provider – complies with the law
- The City also issues building permits – which do have ADA components incorporated and inspectors make sure that any structure/building is ADA-compliant.
- If it’s an existing building that was erected prior to the passage of ADA, the City cannot force them to go back and make their building ADA accessible....unless they go through a process of a major renovation.
- Sidewalks – the City can make sidewalk modifications to ensure that City services are accessible to all.

E. Presentation on new funding for Parks and Rec
Joel McKnight from Parks and Recreation –

The City of El Paso received notice March 20, 2019, that it was awarded \$1 Million from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD), as part of its Urban Outdoor Recreation Grant program. This grant will be combined with more than \$1 million already allocated by City Council for the implementation of All Abilities Playgrounds in various locations within the city. The over \$2 million available will implement three of eight All Abilities playgrounds in a plan approved by City Council on September 18, 2018.

The City applied for the grant and received points making it the Number Two rated application out of eight throughout Texas. Only the City of Fort Worth received a higher rating. The grant is competitive and an agency must meet 15 scoring criteria to be successful. Over the last three years, the City has been awarded three TPWD grants: Futureland, Joey Barraza and Vino Parks, and now the All Abilities Playgrounds.

An All Abilities Playground focuses on acceptance and inclusion regardless of an individual’s abilities and fosters an active lifestyle for all at an early age. The playground goes far beyond meeting minimum standards of accessibility. It emphasizes access to all play elements with resilient all-weather rubberized

surfacing, wider ramps, play elements focused on the five senses, and encourages risk-taking in a fun play environment.

Projects under this new grant will start in September of 2019. Eight parks are planned on being completed, one for each district. After that, we can continue to get additional funding for more parks.

First ones to start: Joey Barraza, Eastside Regional and J.P. Shawyer

Phase II – Nations Tobin, Walter Clarke and Modesto Gomez

Phase III – Remaining parks

A. Presentation on new trailhead and their accessibility

Julio Perez inspected the trails that are being improved:

Lazy Cow

Round House

Jan Summerall

Thousand Steps

They all have accessible pathways to the picnic areas and the parking added is also ADA-compliant.

B. Agenda item discussion and communication.

- o Next meeting: April 25th, 2019 – 2:30-4:00pm.

V. Adjournment – 4:00 PM