

ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

March 31, 2005

2:00 P.M.



MINUTES

I. Welcome/Roll Call

The meeting is called to order at 2:14 pm.

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			
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		
Lisa A Hayes, City Attorney's Office	X		
Luis Enrique Chu			
Susan Leech			

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion was made, seconded, and approved minutes of February 24, 2005.

III. DISCUSSION AND ACTION

A. Volunteer Parking Patrol Sub-Committee Update

Discussion was held regarding allocation of Representative Cushing's funds for items for the volunteers.

The County Tax Assessor's Office required an individual to turn in the placard before being issued a disabled license plate. The Subcommittee wants to know why this was done.

Legislation is being considered by the state to make vehicle movement while pedestrians are in the crosswalk area a Class A misdemeanor instead of a Class C misdemeanor.

Three new volunteers and several school and mall security guards received training. A Volunteer Parking Patrol class will start in April.

Disable Parking Signs are disappearing or being removed at shopping centers and what action to take was discussed.

A letter will be sent to the Governor's Committee on compliance and requirements of the blue and red handicapped parking signs for our local municipality.

A vest will be brought to the next meeting to show the members what they look like.

The Volunteer Parking Patrol Sub-Committee will meet again on May 26, 2005.

B. Supportive Employment.

Nothing new introduced – item tabled.

C. Ordinance Amendment for Barrier Free Construction.

Representative Cook wants to be involved in this Barrier Free Construction ordinance. Susan Leech, from the UTEP Health Science Department of Occupational Therapy Center, is working with Habitat for Humanity on a partnership to get grants for retrofitting homes for the individuals with disabilities. A letter of support will be given to her from the committee.

D. Audible Pedestrian Signal status

More than thirty different messages have been recorded for the intersections. Different wavelengths and volume levels were customized to meet the needs of the different intersections. Requisitions have been submitted for the Audible

Pedestrian Signals purchase orders; they should be ready in about a week. The consulting firm, Martinez Engineering, has started work on the intersection design. A motion was made, seconded, and passed to have a ribbon cutting and media event on the completion of the installation of the audible pedestrian signals at a site to be determined. The subcommittee will meet and give their recommendations on the criteria to be used for rating intersections for installation of audible pedestrian signals.

E. Sensitivity Training for the Mayor and City Council.

Don Seeley presided over questions directed to Mr. Luis Chew, of Volar, about the organization the possibility of doing sensitivity training. Volar has trained Doña Ana County employees and could also train City of El Paso employees and City Council. Lisa Hayes, Assistant City Attorney, suggested that a package with the written training material be given to the city manager so that it can be included in the material being put together for the new council orientation. A motion was made and seconded to have Volar do the training on a pro-bono basis. The motion was approved with one abstention. A motion was made and seconded for Bill Bennett and Volar to contact the city manager and request that a special public meeting be held to conduct the training as per the adopted resolution. The motion was approved with one abstention.

F. Transition Plan for the City of El Paso

The results from last Public Hearing have been put together and will be combined with the 13 points when they are received. In addition, as part of the transition plan, each city department will be required to do a self-evaluation to evaluate their policies, procedures, and programs.

G. Goals and Objectives for the committee

A list of possible goals for the year was presented. It was suggested that the meeting agenda be shortened in order to cut down on the length of the meeting. Any new goals needed to be emailed to the Accessibility office to be included in the list. The agenda for the next meeting will establish the goals and who will be on the subcommittees.

H. Complaints regarding ADA/Accessibility Compliance

1. Formal complaints.

None.

2. Informal complaints

Several complaints were received about signs and parking.

I. Plan Reviews

1. Major Public Access Commercial Facilities

None

2. Municipal Projects

None

J. Next Meeting Agenda, Date and Location

The next meeting will be April 28, 2005 at 2:00 pm on the 8th floor conference room at City Hall.

IV ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The Para-transit taskforce will submit the recommendations on the Para-transit service to the Mass transit Board on April 12, 2005. The certification process and policy and procedure's brochure will not be included.
- Volar and the ARC of El Paso will be hosting a Mayoral Forum on April 21, 2005 from 9am – 11am at the Multipurpose Center Conference Room on Viscount.

V. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 4:20 pm

Eric Reed, Chairperson

William Bennett, Accessibility Coordinator