

CITY OF EL PASO ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (AAC)
January 27, 2022
MEETING MINUTES

1. Call to Order and Roll Call: Meeting was called to order at 2:33 PM. The following Committee Members answered to roll call:

District	Name	Present	Absent
Mayor	Camille Maldonado-Rivera		X
1	Marc Salazar	X	
2	Mayra Gabriela Rodarte	X	
3	Michelle Adjemian	X	
4	Jose Martinez	X	
5	Beatriz Castorena-Mata	X	
6	Phillip Thomas Laign	X	
7	Josue Rodriguez	X	
8	William J. Ellis		X

2. **Approval of November 18, 2021 Minutes**

Motion made by Committee Member Mayra Gabriela Rodarte, seconded by Committee Member Phillip Thomas Laign, and unanimously carried to **APPROVE** the Minutes for the previous 11/18/21 AAC meeting.

3. **Discussion on the citizen force tasked with ticketing vehicles illegally parked in accessible parking spaces**

Committee Member Marc Salazar requested information on the volunteer civilian task force that writes tickets for vehicles illegally parked in accessible parking spaces. Lt. Magali Franco with the El Paso Police Department answered questions related to staffing levels, how one becomes a volunteer, the requirements for being a volunteer, the areas of town that are addressed, the number of citations issued, the length of training and the new law that went in effect January 1, 2022 that required the universal handicap symbol on disabled veteran plates. Stephanie Carbajal from Municipal Court explained the different types of accessibility parking violation citations. Citizen Kristie Lai spoke on the need for the City to educate the public on parking accessibility. Lt. Franco recommended citizens call the EPPD non-emergency number to report parking violations. Committee Member Michelle Adjemian asked about vehicles blocking diagonal striped areas. Committee Member Josue Rodriguez and Committee Chair Jose Martinez commented. Committee Member Josue Rodriguez requested more information about the requirements for volunteers at the next meeting.

4. **Update to the committee on the status of hiring a new ADA Coordinator and an explanation of how the duties are being handled in the interim**

Managing Director Ellen Smyth advised that there have been discussions with Community & Human Development about moving the ADA Coordinator position to that department. Chief Resilience Officer Nicole Ferrini introduced herself and explained her vision for the position. Committee Member Marc Salazar asked how Ms. Ferrini proposed to fill the position. Committee Member Josue Rodriguez indicated a preference for removing the ADA Coordinator

position from Sun Metro. Committee Member Phillip Thomas Laign inquired about the timeframe and whether community meetings could be held to discuss the position.

5. Discussion and action on holding a future AAC meeting at the Chihuahuita Recreation Center in-person

City employee Bri Morales advised this location is currently closed. Committee Member Marc Salazar advised his desire to hold a meeting at this location is due to damaged sidewalks and he would like the committee to see the issues. Ms. Ferrini advised the blue flame building could also be used. No action taken.

6. Next AAC meeting scheduled for February 24th, 2022

7. Public Comment

8. Opportunity for Committee members to request a staff report on items of interest over which the Board has authority – Discussion of items announced at this meeting will take place during the next regularly scheduled meeting.

Committee Chair Jose Martinez requested a discussion item for locations for an in-person meeting. Committee member Marc Salazar requested an update from Ms. Ferrini on the status of hiring an ADA Coordinator. Committee Member Josue Rodriguez requested information on volunteer parking enforcers requirements.

9. Call to Adjourn meeting

Motion made by Committee Member Beatriz Castorena-Mata, seconded by Committee Member Marc Salazar and unanimously carried to **APPROVE** adjournment of meeting at 3:26PM

Approved by:

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Ellen Smyth", written over a horizontal line.

Ellen Smyth, P.E. Department Head / Board Secretary