

CITY OF EL PASO ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (AAC)

February 24, 2022

MEETING MINUTES

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Meeting was called to order at 2:35PM. 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 January 27, 2022 Minutes

Motion made by Committee Member Phillip Thomas Laign, seconded by Committee Member Marc Salazar, and unanimously carried to APPROVE the Minutes for the previous 1/27/22 AAC meeting.

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

Lt. Magali Franco and City employee Astrid Mann presented on EPPD Volunteer Services. Program has been in place since March 2000. Volunteer opportunities exist in Administrative Support, Disabled Parking Enforcement (DPE), Volunteers in Police Service(VIPs) (who work along with Patrol Area Representative Officers), Victim Services and as student interns. Lt. Franco advised that the requirements include being 17 years of age (21 for Disabled Parking Enforcement, Victim Services and VIPs), have a good driving record, be able to pass a background check, follow the policies and procedures and be able to walk/sit/stand for an extended period of time for those same 3 areas. Explained that DPE volunteers need to be ambulatory in order to move between vehicles and carry 10-15 lbs of equipment. Committee Member Marc Salazar asked about sign-in requirements and how many people are currently volunteering as DPEs. Lt. Franco advised the sign-in is hard copy and there are 18 DPEs who are also cross-trained in Victim Services and as VIPs.

4. Discussion on how parks are selected for particular amenities

City employee Karla Chavez presented on minimum ADA considerations at parks, including an accessible parking lot, ramps, sidewalks that lead to amenities, accessible bathrooms, accessible courts, and accessible playgrounds. She discussed ADA considerations in senior and recreation centers, such as pool considerations and similar considerations as parks. She also explained the

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and Neighborhood Improvement Project (NIP) funding opportunities for funding to upgrade parks. Committee Member Marc Salazar asked if there were accessibility requirements on exercise equipment. Ms. Chavez asked that an individual speak with the center supervisor if there are concerns. City employee Benjamin Fyffe advised committee members to make their voices heard at meetings for the November bond election if there are park amenities they would like to see. Committee Member Marc Salazar asked where the meeting information is posted. Mr. Fyffe indicated it was online and Committee Member Michelle Adjemian stated it was also on Facebook.

5. Discussion on infrastructure funds and how they will benefit the disabled community

City Employee Anne Guayante presented on the Infrastructure Investment and Justice Act. In particular noting that equity is addressed as a criteria for funding throughout. There is state and MPO funding available for Amtrak, complete streets and equity in general. Committee member Marc Salazar asked about the timeline for using the funds. Ms. Guayante indicated it depends on the branch, some grants are issued every year and some until the funding is depleted. They will last at least until 2027.

6. 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

City employee Nicole Ferrini gave a presentation discussing the planned move of the ADA Coordinator position to Community Development, as well as the creation of a new Equity division within CD. Committee member Marc Salazar asked if the position would be full-time and Ms. Ferrini indicated it would be. Committee Member Marc Salazar inquired if CD would be requesting input from committee members during the hiring process. Ms. Ferrini indicated she would and that they should send their thoughts on the requirements to Ms. Morales no later than 2/25/22. Committee Member Tom Laign advised he'd like to see an employee who is graceful under fire and able to handle frustrated citizens.

7. Discussion and action on holding a future AAC meeting in-person

Committee Member Marc Salazar moved to **POSTPONE** this item until next month, Board Chairman Jose Martinez seconded. City employee Wendi Vineyard advised that we are still encouraging online meetings.

8. Next AAC meeting scheduled for March 24th, 2022

Committee Member Beatriz Castorena-Mata moved to hold the meeting on 3/24/22, Committee Member Michelle Adjemian seconded and unanimously carried to **APPROVE** the date for the next meeting.

9. Public Comment

Committee Member Camille Maldonado-Rivera introduced herself as a new member of the committee.

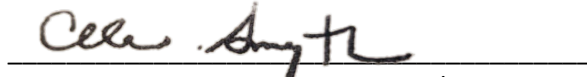
10. Opportunity for Committee members to request a staff report on items of interest over which the Board has authority – Discussion of items announced at this meeting will take place during the next regularly scheduled meeting.

Board Chair Jose Martinez reminded members to send any topics to Ms. Morales in time for staff to put together information.

11. Call to Adjourn meeting

Board Chair Jose Martinez made a motion to, seconded by Committee Member Beatriz Castorena-Mata and unanimously approved to ADJOURN the meeting at 3:55PM

Approved by:

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

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