

City of Albuquerque

Department of Senior Affairs Advisory Council

714 Seventh Street SW
Albuquerque, NM 87102



Jorja Armijo-Brasher, Director

Richard J. Berry, Mayor

DSA Advisory Council Meeting
Manzano Mesa Multigenerational Center
February 20, 2013

Minutes

- I. Meeting Called to Order 12:07 pm by Yumi Johnson
 - a. Present: Yumi Johnson, Marianne Chiffelle, Al Provencio, Mabel Padilla, Susan White and Agnes Vallejos
Absent: Mary Jaramillo and Tina King
 - b. January Minutes were approved with two changes.
 - c. February Agenda was approved.
- II. Presentation – Cristin Chavez-Smith, Manzano Mesa Manager
 - a. Manzano Mesa is one of two Multigenerational Centers in the city. It has been operating since 2002. They provide programs and activities for youth, teens, adults and seniors. The center serves a very diverse ethnic population. Also, they publish a monthly newsletter. Cristin provided everyone with a recent issue of the newsletter.
 - b. Mabel Padilla brought up some concerns that were shared with her about Manzano Mesa. One concern is from members who do not like standing in line with walkers to get lunch tickets. Cristin explained that tickets cannot be sold until the lunch button on registers appears at 11:25 am. Members do not have to stand in line, but may choose to do so because they prefer to sit at certain tables. Another concern was that there is not enough handicapped parking available in the front of the building. Manzano Mesa does meet the standards for handicapped spaces; however it was suggested perhaps portable handicapped signs could be placed in spaces during lunch time.
 - c. Yumi stated Manzano Mesa produces a great newsletter and wanted to note the difference in demographics at the multigenerational center compared to senior centers.
- III. Public Participation
 - a. Connie Gilman, who oversees boards for Bernalillo County, attended the meeting. She suggested the council may want to participate in televising one of the meetings. The council will discuss if this may be an option in the next year and the item will be placed on the next agenda as a voting item.
- IV. Council Business
 - a. Council member reports
 - i. Marianne Chiffelle stated there is an issue with the hot water at Manzano Mesa, but the problem is being fixed.

- ii. Yumi Johnson stated Los Volcanes was one of four centers to achieve national accreditation status. Sagebrush Church recently sent over volunteers to help provide some new white paint in the pool room. The Social Hall and benches out front could use a face lift as well. Yumi will work with another volunteer group to see if she can't get some people to provide this work. This volunteer day may occur on April 20, 2013. Also, Yumi would like to have Rhonda Methvin get in touch with the facility to the south of Los Volcanes to put up a silt fence as all the dirt in the parking lot is from their site.
- iii. Mabel Padilla stated the heating system does not function well at Manzano Mesa. It was explained that the heat is centrally controlled and is not controlled at the facility. This is in an effort to save energy.
- iv. Al Provencio visited three centers and reports the following:
 1. Palo Duro - He has listened to many complaints and overheard even more regarding the need for more parking spaces. There are three city facilities at this location who share the parking lots: Erna Ferguson Library, Palo Duro Senior Center, and a public swimming pool. Use of the library and Palo Duro Center is heavy year round and the parking lots are normally full. Although the swimming pool is not open at this time of year, members attending from the Bear Canyon Senior Center, which is undergoing renovation, keeps the pressure for parking space up. The situation will become extremely bad when the city pool opens. Al recommends the DSA staff or the DSA Advisory Council explore the possibility of additional parking on the east side of the city swimming pool for pool attendees. The huge property on the east side of the pool is the very large Montgomery Park owned by the city and a small portion carved out for parking would not have a negative impact on the multi-acre park. He would like to know what the Advisory Council can do to have this project completed. Al also reports that the HVAC system in the kitchen area zone does not do an adequate job of heating and cooling. He would like to know if funds are available to remedy this.
 - a. Money for the HVAC system was included in the CIP.
 2. Highland – It is known that use and attendance at Highland Senior Center has been light since it reopened following the renovation of the facility. Al visited with Manager Cassandra Vigil and asked her about utilization/attendance at the center and she informed him it has picked up, mostly due to members coming from the Bear Canyon Center currently closed for renovation. She said there are still time slots/classroom space not used. Al suggests DSA staff post notices at other senior centers about the availability of classroom space and the corresponding time slots in an attempt to increase utilization. He also noted the parking lot is very deteriorated and need to be resurfaced and striped. It was suggested that they write letters to Councilor Garduno with these concerns. Also, Jorja Armijo-Brasher will be meeting with Councilor Garduno in the near future.

- 3. North Valley – Al visited with Manager Ed Nunez who had just received a congratulatory notice that the center is now an accredited senior center and was very happy about it. Ed was also pleased that the kitchen at the center has reopened following repairs. The parking lot at the North Valley center also needs attention.
 - v. Agnes Vallejos did not have anything to report but she did want to mention that the Council had duplication for facility representation and thinks the Council should get input from other DSA divisions and seniors who utilize those social services. Anthony Romero suggested Council members sit in with I&A, call in to I&A as a “mystery shopper”, go on a visit with a Care Coordinator, or go on a route for home delivered meals.
 - vi. Susan White reported Barelás is working on the accreditation process. She also stated that when Barelás remodeled, they did not put in a PA system for music. Susan suggested all Council members should write a paragraph about the DSA Advisory Council for the center’s monthly newsletters.
 - b. Advisory Council Business
 - i. During the meeting in Santa Fe, Yumi Johnson was elected Chair and Al Provencio was elected Vice Chair. This year’s trip was great!
 - ii. The goals for 2013 are to get more information at meetings, get out to different sites and look at the different programs and to publish a meeting schedule.
 - iii. Projects
 - 1. Freedom Festival 2013 is receiving a lot of help from DSA as well as the National Guard and Veteran’s groups. The tentative date is set for May 11, 2013 at the Balloon Fiesta Park. No decisions on date and location have been made. Meetings are still being conducted. The next meeting is scheduled for February 27, 2013. Volunteers are needed to help at the event. Yumi suggested a pot luck to get together so volunteers will know what their role is on the day of the event.
 - 2. Yumi will discuss the Coat Drive at the next scheduled meeting.
- V. Administration Reports
 - a. Director Report – Jorja Armijo-Brasher
 - i. Jorja recognized Anthony Romero for the wonderful job he did in putting together the new DSA brochures. They do a fantastic job highlighting the services DSA has to offer. Rhonda Methvin, the new Recreation Division Manager was introduced. Jorja informed the council the paperwork for the Capital Outlay Request was hand delivered to Santa Fe. It was signed off by Representatives Larranaga and Rehm as well as Sen. Moore and Ryan. Jorja explained to the council that managers were briefed on workplace safety. One entrance should be utilized at all centers for safety purposes. DSA must be conscience of the safety of our seniors. Members may become upset with the changes, but staff needs to be able to monitor the buildings. Centers will also come up with safety plans and will train all volunteers.
 - b. Division Reports
 - i. Recreation – Rhonda Methvin will be going out to the centers to meet with the managers and spend time at each facility. Bear Canyon had 8 contractor bids

and they are currently in the process of awarding the contract. The new City Councilor has been asked for money for a new fitness center for North Valley Senior Center. A change order has been done to complete the addition of office space at Highland.

- ii. Social Services – Anthony Romero reminded council members to sign up to be a RSVP volunteer if they have not already done so. Alzheimer’s Day at the Legislature went well. DSA will be partnering with New Mexico Highlands University on a Volunteer Shopper Program. DSA is working on forming a partnership with PB&J. The Senior Citizens Law Office is celebrating its 30 year anniversary. Also, the RSVP Breakfast will be May 30, 2013. Volunteers will be needed again this year.
- iii. Nutrition/Transportation – Kathy Black informed the council Sagebrush Church had close to 100 volunteers at CASA washing and detailing vans and cleaning windows. They spent 4 hours at CASA. The second Meal Site Consolidation meeting was held. The focus was to figure out how to improve outreach in the community to include meeting with Neighborhood Associations. DSA is still working on getting agreements with groups that they don’t have written agreements such as Family & Community Services and housing sites. Meetings are being conducted with the drivers and new radios are being ordered.
- iv. Fiscal – Karen Lopez informed the council DSA had its budget hearing on February 8, 2013. On March 4, 2013 the CIP will go before the full city council with the possibility of some floor substitutes.

VI. Adjournment: 2:15 pm