

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
Barelas Senior Center
June 23, 2014

Minutes

- I. Meeting Called to Order by Debby Knotts – 12:07 pm
 - a. Present: Susan White, Debby Knotts, and Mabel Padilla.
Absent: Agnes Vallejos and Marianne Chiffelle
 - b. May 2014 Minutes were approved.
 - c. June Agenda was approved.
- II. Center Manager: Introduction & Comments
 - a. Patty Gutierrez is the new center manager at the Barelas Senior Center. She has worked for the City of Albuquerque for 20 years. She is working on getting afternoon classes at the center. She invited the council to look at the garden after the meeting.
- III. Public Participation
 - a. Louisa Martinez expressed concerns about the administration at Highland. She said they have been sarcastic and rude in the past (2 years ago). She said administration books bands for the dances that the members do not like and made the dance hall smaller. She said the members love the band Gato Negro. Also, she said Highland has a rude volunteer who works the dances.
 - b. Benny Blea said he feels like he is being treated like a child at the dances for example when there is a volunteer at the door collecting tickets. He believes that is not necessary. He said Highland gets bad bands that people don't like i.e. the one man band. He also believes that the bands are not paid enough.
 - c. Paulie Perez said they were not informed of the Saturday dances at Highland being canceled. She said that was not fair to the seniors who enjoy the Saturday dances. She would like for Highland to reconsider having the dances on Saturday.
 - d. Jeanette (last name unknown). She is a volunteer at the dances. She said Highland has made the dance room smaller and that limited the number of people who could attend the dances. She said people were being turned away because they did not have membership cards and she feels that is wrong. She said people quit going to the dances at Highland because of the bands they were hiring and that they were closing both doors leaving no ventilation in the dance area. She suggested Highland have a dance once a month like Los Volcanes does where all the money collected to enter the dance goes to the band who is playing.

- e. Phillip Perez said he spoke with Samuel D. and he is willing to play at Highland once a month. He also expressed concern about the temperature at the North Valley Senior Center. He said it is very warm in the center.

IV. Administrative Reports

a. Director Report

a. 2030 Initiative Review

- 1. A meeting was held with Directors from each department and the DSA video was shown.
- 2. Directors were left with the challenge to come up with ideas to get names of people in the community they are affiliated with.
- 3. Feedback has already been received.

b. Business & Community Engagement

- 1. Will be meeting with the NM Hispano of Commerce soon.

c. Annual Budget Report

- 1. DSA has a flat budget this upcoming fiscal year.
- 2. Full time positions were gained for North Domingo Baca.
- 3. Renovation at Highland will begin
- 4. North Valley is getting a new fitness center.
- 5. Debby would like to have a copy of the budget report available at all centers.

b. Division Reports

a. Recreation – Rhonda Methvin

- 1. In the process of hiring to fill the vacant positions in Recreation.

b. Social Services – Anthony Romero

- 1. FGP and SCP were awarded their grants. The RSVP Breakfast was a success. Volunteer programs are in the middle of an audit. The new Quick Guide is out. Working on filling vacant positions. He has been working with Cheryl Hunt on a collaboration with Encino Terrace. Attend the Points of Light conference in Atlanta.

c. Nutrition/Transportation – Kathy Black

- 1. Has been working with a group of volunteer drivers and staff for the past 8 months to come up with emergency procedures, create training documents, and a maintenance check list for vans. There will be three meetings in July for the new training for the volunteer drivers. The Meal Sites had a successful summer picnic at the Holy Family picnic area. Stop Senior Hunger was a success. 1,500 more pounds of food were collected this year and distribution has started. Kathy will be retiring and her last day is August 8th.

d. Fiscal – Karen Lopez

- 1. Passed out a fiscal snapshot of the last 2 years. Staff is working on closing out FY/14. The City created a new fund, 250 which will track AAA funds separate from Family & Community.

V. Council Business

a. Council Member Reports

- a. Susan White reports the Meal Site picnic was great. She said Wednesday's at Pajarito are "up and down" because there is not always someone at the site. She asked if a DJ could be hired for dances instead of a band and perhaps Highland could try that for their dances.
 - b. Mabel Padilla is impressed with the activity board at Bear Canyon. She said there are a lot of trips posted. While having lunch at Bear Canyon she saw a person who only had a sandwich and they told her it was because they could not afford the \$3.25 for a hot meal. She said the manager of Bear Canyon would like to get a New Mexico flag and that they are short one custodian.
 - c. Debby Knotts reports there were a lot of people at the dance on Saturday at Highland. Members she has spoken with are appreciative of the services available. She did her last cooking class during June and is not sure when she can teach another class. She had the opportunity to meet Councilor Rey Garduno at the SE Heights Neighborhood Fest this past weekend. She is still working on trying to find avenues for advocacy with the City Council.
 - b. Advisory Council Business
 - a. 2014 Agenda – Advocacy
 - 1. Will come up with talking points for the next meeting.
 - b. Engaging City Council Members
 - 1. Invite council members to events and meetings
 - c. Preparing for next Legislative Session
 - 1. The points from Santa Fe are still valid.
 - c. Old/New Business
 - a. Upcoming Events
 - 1. July 1, 2014 – Celebration honoring Barelas Senior Center Veterans
 - b. Projects – Will be placed on next month's agenda
 - c. Suggestions for future agenda items
 - 1. Council members will e-mail Debby if they have any ideas or suggestions.
- VI. Adjournment
- a. Meeting was adjourned at 2:09 pm.

**Next meeting will be Monday, July 21, 2014 – North Domingo Baca Multigenerational Center
7521 Carmel Ave NE**