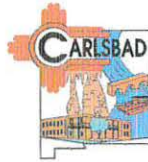


MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE

**City of Carlsbad
Disabilities Advisory Board
Janell Whitlock Municipal Complex**

Friday, March 8, 2024, at 10:30 a.m.

**Meeting Held in the Janell Whitlock Municipal Complex
Council Chambers
114 S. Halagueno St.**



CITY OF CARLSBAD
CARLSBAD, NEW MEXICO

DISABILITIES ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

Friday, March 8, 2024 at 10:30 AM

Janell Whitlock Municipal Complex

114 S. Halagueno St.

GoToMeeting ID: 580-891-013

US Phone: +1 (408) 650-3123 Access Code: 580-891-013

1. Roll call of voting members and determination of quorum
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Approval of Minutes from the Meeting held January 12, 2024
4. Discussion with Mayor Richard D. Lopez
5. Members to share progress on resource list
6. Update on possible replacement of board members
7. Discuss sidewalk repairs
 - a. Any concerns to report to the board
 - b. Public comment.
8. Review of listed concerns and repair needs shared by the Board and recognition of repairs completed by the City
9. Approval of ADA Friendly business to recognize
10. Public comments regarding items for the April agenda
11. Adjourn



FOR INFORMATION ONLY

Disability Advisory Board agendas and meeting minutes are available on the City website:

cityofcarlsbadnm.com

or may be viewed in the Office of the City Clerk or at the Carlsbad Public Library during normal business hours

DISABILITY ADVISORY BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE

- Regular meeting – Friday, April 12, 2024, at 10:30 a.m.

If you require a hearing interpreter, language interpreter, or auxiliary aids in order to attend and participate in the above meeting, please contact the City Administrator's office at (575) 887-1191 at least 48 hours prior to the scheduled meeting time.

Ms. Allery welcomed the newly elected Mayor of Carlsbad. **Mayor Lopez** said he attended a few of the Disabilities Advisory Board meetings in the past as Fire Chief for the City, and he has some understanding of the purpose of the Board. He wants the Board to know that he's eager to work with different committees and employees. For the first couple of months of his term, he's been concentrating on internal hiring and making sure the City operation is fully functioning. He's been leaning on City staff because there's a lot of work that needs to be accomplished. He said that sidewalk installation and repair is an important issue for him and the City is adding four more construction workers to form a crew that will be dedicated to sidewalk work. He knows that they will not be able to accomplish all of the work immediately, but he is dedicated to making sure that the state of the City's sidewalks will be improved. The Mayor has met with Chief Skinner of the Carlsbad Police Department to discuss assigning police officers to patrol businesses and parks to make our public areas safer. They have also discussed dedicating one police officer per council ward to solely patrol that ward. **Mr. Kirby** said he would like to see more ADA compliant curb cuts and he knows some sidewalks don't meet correctly at street intersections. **Mayor Lopez** said he knows of some intersections where the curb cuts are not correct, and he will see that this issue is addressed. **Mayor Lopez** recommended that each Board member reach out to their Councilmen or Councilwomen if there is an issue that needs attention. **Ms. Allery** mentioned an issue with certain current members of the Board that were willing to serve, but at this time were unable to serve. She recommends replacing these members on the Board to ensure that the Board can continue to function at full capacity. **Mayor Lopez** asked the members to give him a list of citizens who are willing and able to serve and who can be constructive and helpful. **Mr. Patterson** stated that the Planning Department has been documenting all of the Board's concerns and repair requests regarding the sidewalks around town, and that list has been submitted to the Public Works Department. **Mayor Lopez** said that was appropriate and asks that this continue. **Ms. Blake** said she wants the City to look into vehicles being parked across the sidewalks along Callaway Drive. This causes issues with residents that need to utilize these sidewalks as they walk along this route. This forces the residents out into the street in order to get around these vehicles. **Mayor Lopez** stated that he will look into this situation. The Mayor noted this section of Callaway Drive was restricted by the CID canal. The Mayor said he'll look into that area to see what could be changed to help this situation. **Ms. Ortiz** said that we do have an ordinance in place about parking over the sidewalks.

Ms. Allery invited the Mayor to join future Board meetings whenever he is available. **Ms. Allery** informed the Mayor that the Board has toured various City's facilities in the past 18 months. **Mr. Patterson** said they toured the City facilities that are open to the public. **Mr. Patterson** said there is an issue with the Janelle Whitlock Municipal Annex that needs to be addressed. This building lacks a secondary egress for wheelchair bound individuals. **Mayor Lopez** asked what needs to be changed to address this issue. **Mr. Patterson** said there will need to be considerable alterations to the sidewalk at the rear of the building as well as alterations to the floor inside the building. **Mayor Lopez** said they will get this repair planned. **Ms. Pinching** said the Board is starting to compile a list of resources for all disabilities to disseminate to the community, particularly new residents. **Mayor Lopez** asked how this information is getting out to the public. **Ms. Allery** said the Board created a flyer some time ago and the intent was to place the flyer at City facilities and post the flyer on the City's social media. **Mayor Lopez** said he's been in contact with Kyle Marksteiner, who is now with United Way, and Mr. Marksteiner plans to bring together a few different groups in the community that offer services for disabled citizens in order to find out which operations are offering certain services. This is to ensure that services aren't being duplicated unnecessarily. **Mayor Lopez** suggests the flyers be posted at City facilities as well as the City's Facebook page. **Ms. Boatwright** tells the Mayor in the Carlsbad Division of Vocational Rehabilitation there is no representative working in this office. Our community is dependent on Hobbs or Roswell, but this representative could do so much for this division. **Mr. Kirby** said there is someone in training to fill this role, but he is not sure when this person will be in place. **Ms. Allery** stated a lack of communication hurts our effort as she didn't know that the local Red Cross was in jeopardy. **Mr. Kirby** said the Red Cross had closed previously and it has yet to reopen. **Mayor Lopez** said it's good that there is an office in Roswell instead of Las Cruces. **Mr. Kirby** mentioned another issue in Carlsbad regarding housing for people with disabilities that is affordable and available. **Mayor Lopez** discussed the City's

housing for people with disabilities that is affordable and available. **Mayor Lopez** discussed the City's plan to install more affordable housing units on property acquired from the Bureau of Land Management. **Mr. Patterson** said he will have Ken Thurston with KT Homes attend an upcoming Board meeting to discuss building units with ADA friendly designs. **Mayor Lopez** said he will speak with the Southeast New Mexico College to see if they could have their trades program participate in new builds and refurbishments for ADA needs in our housing inventory. **Mr. Kirby** mentioned a need for a large homeless shelter. **Mayor Lopez** said the City plans to address this need for shelters. **Ms. Allery** asked the Mayor about the empty school buildings and whether there is an open communication between the City and the School District to discuss the future of these buildings. **Mayor Lopez** said that he has spoken with Dr. Washburn regarding the bond issues, but he hasn't discussed what the plan will be for the empty buildings. The Schools will need to utilize some of the old buildings as they move kids around during the reconstruction of existing schools. The population of our students is growing faster than they can build buildings. **Mayor Lopez** said Joe Stanley Smith school is being utilized as needed for evacuations and an emergency shelter. **The Mayor** said there's a lot of things he wants to get to, but he is needing to prioritize. It just takes time.

0:46:47

5. Members to share progress on resource list

Ms. Pinching provided a handout that lists contacts in town that may assist those with vision impairment. **Ms. Pinching** said that Ms. Blake mentioned that another Lions Club is starting and that will be added to the handout. **Ms. Allery** said that one contact to add would be Carlsbad Family Health Center/Behavioral Health. This center is part of the Presbyterian network and they accept Medicaid. They also provide pre and low cost care. **Ms. Allery** mentioned Meagher Assessment and Counseling Services, but she doesn't think this clinic is open and has failed to establish contact. She recommends not adding this to the list. **Ms. Allery** mentions Permian Basin Counseling and Associates accepts Medicaid and they are wheelchair accessible. **Ms. Allery** said JetZen Counseling has failed to return her calls. The Recovery Center and Canyon Safe House are not functioning. **Ms. Boatwright** asked if LifeHouse is just for rehabilitation and drug counseling. **Ms. Allery** said LifeHouse only takes counseling patients if there is a connection to the rehab facility and drug recovery. **Ms. Boatwright** said she has some contacts for the Division of Vocational Rehab in town. Their purpose is to help disabled students in high school develop pre-employment skills and then help them find benefits, employment, supplement, post-secondary educational opportunities. **Ms. Boatwright** said the Department of Health has a developmental disability section where DVR can provide help. **Mr. Kirby** said he heard that they have closed the CARC Farm and are no longer taking in new residents. **Ms. Boatwright** said that DVR is a state network with business partners that will help them get job training. **Ms. Boatwright** said that DVR is a huge resource, and Carlsbad is at a huge disadvantage not having a person here in town. **Ms. Allery** said she will call CARC to confirm the status of that operation. **Ms. Pinching** said she remembers institutions shutting down and those displaced clients ended up at the CARC Farm. **Ms. Boatwright** said that no institution she is aware of compares to the CARC farm. She believes the CARC farm is unlike anything that the state or country offers, because they are treated with dignity, respect and they are offered opportunities to learn and grow. **Ms. Allery** said they may live at the facility but they are very much a part of the larger community. **Ms. Allery** asked Ms. Boatwright to contact Blue Star and get their information. **Ms. Tackett** said she called Enhabit and Comfort Keepers to ask if they had a resource list for disabled persons. They do not currently have a list. **Mr. Patterson** said that he recommends every Board member send their list to Ms. Allery and she can compile it and submit it to the City.

1:12:37

6. Update on possible replacement of board member

Ms. Allery said they need to get a list of potential board members to the Mayor as soon as possible. She doesn't think Rawnie McKibben is going to be able to continue as a member, and she'll contact Mike Pfeifer to see if he still wants to be on the board. She knows that Ms. Blake would like to be back on the board. **Ms. Pinching** said she'll contact Rory O'Neal again and see if he wants to serve on the board. **Ms. Boatwright** asked if there were any stipulations for potential members. **Ms. Boatwright** said she would like to recommend Annella Westfall. **Ms. Allery** asked Ms. Boatwright to contact Ms. Westfall

to be on the board. She would recommend Mary Garwood for the board. **Ms. Allery** asked **Ms. Blake** to see if **Mary Garwood** would be interested in joining the board. **Ms. Allery** asked the members to confirm with their recommendations and send her their emails and phone numbers.

1:16:20

7. Discussion of sidewalk repairs

- a. Any Concerns to report to the board
- b. Public comment.

Ms. Allery asked if there are any sidewalk issues to report. **Ms. Blake** mentioned she will be reviewing the sidewalk from Johnson Street to Cherry Lane in the near future and she will report back to the board. Also, across from 1619 Desert Willow, there is a drainage dip that is dangerous for those in a wheelchair or scooter to cross. She recommends metal plates be placed over the dip.

1:30:25

8. Review of listed concerns and repair needs shared by the Board and recognition of repairs completed by the City

Ms. Allery said it sounds like the Mayor is prioritizing these repairs.

1:30:39

10. Approval of ADA Friendly business to recognize.

Ms. Blake mentioned recognizing Two Guys All Repair out of Loving, NM.

Mr. Kirby made a motion to approve of ADA Friendly business; **Ms. Pinching** seconded the motion. The vote was as follows: Yes—**Ms. Allery, Ms. Boatwright, Mr. Kirby, Ms. Pinching, and Ms. Tackett.** No—None. Absent—**Mr. Pfeifer, and Ms. McKibben.** Abstained—None. The motion carried.

1:35:33

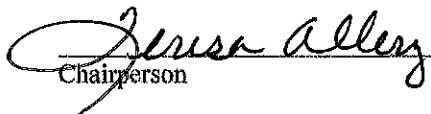
11. Public comments regarding items for the April agenda

Ms. Tackett asked if any of the local contractors were going to attend a meeting. **Mr. Patterson** said he would reach out to Ken Thurston and arrange his presence at a future meeting.

1:36:24

12. Adjourn

Mr. Kirby made a motion to adjourn; **Ms. Tackett** seconded the motion. The vote was as follows: Yes—**Ms. Allery, Ms. Boatwright, Mr. Kirby, Ms. Pinching, and Ms. Tackett.** No—None. Absent—**Mr. Pfeifer, and Ms. McKibben.** Abstained—None. The motion carried.


Chairperson

4-12-2024

Date