



CITY'S ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

DATE: May 14, 2015

TIME: 2:00 P.M.

PLACE: City 2 – Workforce Learning Center
218 N. Campbell – Fourth Floor
El Paso, Texas 79901

MINUTES

1- Welcome / Roll Call

Meeting called to order at 2:10 PM. Roll Call: Frank Lozano (District 1), Frank Gromand (District 3), George Zavala (Mayor's Office), Paul De La Peña (District 8), Olaf Brunjes (Secretary)

2- Call to the Public – Public Comment

- a. \$10 Campaign – Personal Care Attendant (PCA) currently get paid minimum wage and do not receive any type of benefits. This campaign is to ask state legislators to raise the minimum wage to \$10.
- b. Request was made to upgrade pedestrian signals near to audible signals near Civic Center (Santa Fe/Franklin and Santa Fe/Mills). EPDOT Staff responded that it's already planned, but will verify and add the intersections to the list if not already on there.

3- Discussion

- a. George Zavala and Paul De La Peña self-nominated each other. After a vote, Paul De La Peña was voted as Chair and George Zavala as Vice-Chair.
- b. Ordinance 8961 establishes the committee. Section VI discusses the limits of the committee:
 - a) Act as Advisory Board to Council.
 - b) Undertake such studies as deemed necessary by Council.
 - c) Report to Council the results of studies and recommendations.
 - d) Appoint subcommittees to study barriers in designated specific areas.
 - e) Prepare and distribute to Council a quarterly report detailing the activities as the Board.

Also, meetings should comply with the Texas Open Meetings Act.

Subcommittees can be made up of Committee Members, City staff, or community members. A list of past subcommittees should be provided for the next meeting.

- c. There are two different types of "pedestrian" programs. One being a "Sidewalk Gap Program" which is being dealt with by EPDOT. The second is "Curb Ramp on Demand Program". The demand is high, therefore a list of requested curb ramps is maintained. The funding comes from Community Development. For the time being, a cost estimate is provided for each request, and is provided to superiors who will make a determination. The funds need to be used on a pre-determined district, two different districts each year. City Council implemented

the two-districts per year policy, and only they can change it. There should be other funding sources that should be looked into.

4- Announcements

- a. Ordinance amending Title 18 of the Municipal Code passed on April 14, 2015. The purpose of the ordinance is to allow businesses to provide greater accessibility without the need to bring the facility into compliance with *other* non-accessibility codes (such as plumbing, mechanical, electrical, landscape, etc.). Community Development provides loans to businesses, which can be used to make the facility more accessible. Also, there is a Federal tax initiative for small businesses to provide greater accessibility. More outreach should be provided to businesses regarding these initiatives. In terms of accessibility, there is no such thing as “grand-fathering”, and businesses need to know this. The City Council should be supportive of the accessibility needs that citizens have.

5- Approval on the Next Meeting Date

- a. Second Thursday of the month at 2:00 PM was voted and approved by committee members as a recurring schedule.

6- Adjournment

- a. Meeting adjourned at 3:11 PM