

# Meeting Minutes District 4 Coalition April 16, 2025

**In attendance:** Academy North, Cherry Hills, Bear Canyon, Heritage East, Nor Este, North Domingo Baca, Quail Springs, Quintessence, Vista Del Norte

**Friends of D4C:** Irene Minke

**Guests:** Brittany Martinez, Angie Casias, Ryan Nelson APD, Mark Dimenna EHD, Edith Sandoval

**Guest Speakers:** Michael Pittman Food Inspections - ABQ Environmental Health

- Meeting called to order by Co-President Lorna Howerton at 6:33 PM
- Introduction of all attendees around the table

**Approval of Minutes from March 19th, 2025:** Motion to approve March minutes made by Lorna Howerton. The motion passed unanimously.

**Approval of Consent agenda for April 16th, 2025** Motion to amend the agenda to move Jim Souter's from the committee reports to Councilor Brook Bassan's section and the APD report following Jim Souter's reports, made by Judie Pellegrino second made by Cathy Economy. The motion passed unanimously.

Guest Speaker Michael Pittman:

Health inspectors come into restaurants, to make sure that everything that is given to the public for consumption is safe and to make sure that everyone is following the laws. RED, GREEN, YELLOW tags- this designation is based on their most recent inspection. Green stickers are issued for a score of 85 or greater. 75-84 points is called "conditionally approved". Over 95% are restaurants, are passing inspections. RED Stickers are issued "unsatisfactory" for a score of 65-74 points. Stickers must be displayed for 5 days and inspectors can come back and re-inspect and issue the pass or fail based on the last inspection. They will also be asked to attend a food safety class. Closed stickers are issued for a score of 64 or below and one of the following that would immediately close a restaurant. 1.No electricity - no cold holding, 2. No hot water 3. Sewage backup 4. Rodent infestation, 5. No cold water.

Where can you get more information on the classification of restaurants? They are reported to the Albuquerque Journal and they publish the results every week. CABQ Environmental Health website has more information regarding all the departments/areas they cover.

<https://www.cabq.gov/environmentalhealth>

Q&A: what is the deal with grocery stores - specifically Smiths grocery stores. What type of issues were not being addressed? A number of things were incorrect, handwashing, hot&cold holding, but many times it was just a managerial issue that they were not cooperating with. Corporate came into town and they were very collaborative, they provided a regional number if there are further issues.

How long does it take to do an inspection? There are 7 inspectors, they are completed in 45min-1hr on average. Depends on the facility.

How do you determine who will be inspected? The inspectors are given a list of restaurants in their district, they will try and do as many inspections in that district as possible.

2 inspections per year on average for restaurants, grocery stores are usually 1 inspection per year.

**APD - Commander Ryan Nelson:**

Crime stats in that last 30 day period March - April

Larsony (all type calls for service): 197

Family Offenses: 326

Auto burglary: 48

Assault: 106

Residential: 19

Robbery: 14

Commercial: 31

Criminal sexual penetration: 7

Auto theft: 78

Traffic stops: 30 days 253 traffic stops made

Disturbance: 567

It seems like big numbers, but this is the largest area in the city. The numbers are down. How down? When Commander Ryan Nelson took over in 2023, the 197 calls for larsony is what he was getting for just Target at Uptown. Auto theft is down, it used to be in the hundreds. To have 78 last month is a good thing, all calls down about 25%.

Q&A: *Why do you think they are down?* - Proactive response team focused on shoplifting because it was out of control. These criminals are usually poly-criminals (they commit multiple crimes or repeat offenders) if they can make an arrest at the shoplifting event they have potentially prevented an auto burglary.

### **Brook Bassan Councilor Report - Jim Souter to deliver update**

Jim has provided his entire presentation. Please find below after the NDBMC report.

### **Neighborhood Association Roundtable:**

North Domingo Baca: problems with Ezee fiber, currently have lines exposed and not buried. They have not come back to fix it, not sure if it was forgotten or what.

Quail Springs Neighborhood Association: Ezee Fiber is beginning construction in the neighborhood, no other issues to report at this time.

Vista Del Norte: Jim provided a big update on their park and brought a print out of their park.

Irene Minke- Friend of D4C: Living with Giga Power, three companies are currently working in their neighborhood and it is a mess

Cherry Hills: Ezee Fiber and Vexus are the only two in their neighborhood. Situation at 8804 Brandywine was addressed and currently being monitored. They talked about the park, and proposed ideas for their park at their annual meeting in March.

Heritage East: Easter Party in April was a big success. Lots of vendors, games, and activities. Great turnout and huge success with all their neighbors. Vexus is starting in their neighborhood. They were told that two companies were going to come into their neighborhood and that was it, because it was not economical to compete with the other two companies.

Nor Este: No issues reported at this time.

Academy North: Really looking for a central point for updates on the fiber optics because there are rumors & speculations with all three companies and different things being told but no one seems to have a centralized clear update of what is going on. CABQ has a tab on their website for "Fiber Optics" but that is not being regularly updated. Speculation of work stoppage for the fiber optic companies. Article provided below

Quintessence: Both companies have come and gone. Annual meeting in April, and they are expected to lose 2 board members. Looking for a new trash can for the park. Suggestion made to call 311 for a new one.

Bear Canyon: squatting situation and debilitated properties are still an issue in their neighborhood. Suggestions were made for them to refer to their covenants and city ordinances to call 311 on some of their debilitated properties. Bear Canyon has reached out to zoning and had them out but the coalition recommended they start calling 311 on to notify them of city ordinance violations.

## **Officers Reports**

**Co-President Lucy Murillo/Lorna Howerton** - Brook wanted to remind us that the council is beginning the fiscal year 2026 operating budget process. The Mayor sent his proposed budget to the council on April 1st. They will begin committee meetings beginning in May and the council has to have an approved budget by the end of May.

**Vice-President Kathy Economy**- Nothing to report

**Treasure's Report Judie Pellegrino** - \$415.45 after the \$300 for the donations. Another donation was received at the April meeting to be deposited.

**Secretary's report Aubrey Gladwell** - We were notified that Knapp Heights has disbanded their neighborhood association.

## **Committee Reports**

**Hospitality Report-** Nothing to report

**Zoning and Development** - attached to the agenda.

**North Domingo Baca** - attached to the agenda. Drone pictures were taken of the aquatic center progress and are attached to the NMBMC report below.

**Metro Parks & Rec-** Jim's report was given with councilor Brook Bassan's report.

## **New Business:**

May meeting- we have sent invitations to the 6 State legislatures asking them to come and speak with us. We have dedicated the entire meeting to them; so there will not be a typical agenda. Invite your neighbors. The room will be set up for as many people as possible, lecture hall style. The topic will be this last legislative session, what did they work on and what were their wins.

The roadrunner foodbank box needs to be taken over from Jim and Mildred. Someone else will need to be responsible for picking up the food from NDBMC and take it to Roadrunner foodbank. If no one is able to do it, the box needs to be pulled.

Link to the news article from KOB 4 to the "Stop Work" order given to Vexus & Giga Power.

<https://www.kob.com/new-mexico/city-of-albuquerque-issues-stop-work-order-after-homeowner-complaints/>

Next meetings will be May 16th, 2025 @ 6:30 pm

Motion to Adjourn Judie Pellegrino meeting seconded Jim Souter by @ 8:15pm

## **Development Committee Report for March 2025**

3-3-25 – 8200 Carmel Ave NE. Zion Sign application for illuminated wall sign for Coldwell Banker. Nor Este NA and VENA notified.

3-7-25 – 7904 Puritan Ct NE. Bedroom Addition application. Not within a neighborhood association boundaries.

3-13-25 – 7330 San Antonio Dr. Dutch Bros Coffee site plan. Cherry Hills NA notified.

3-15-25 67 – 6742 and 6750 Akademieia Loop NE. Pulte Homes site plans for two more houses at Estates at Academy. Cherry Hills NA notified.

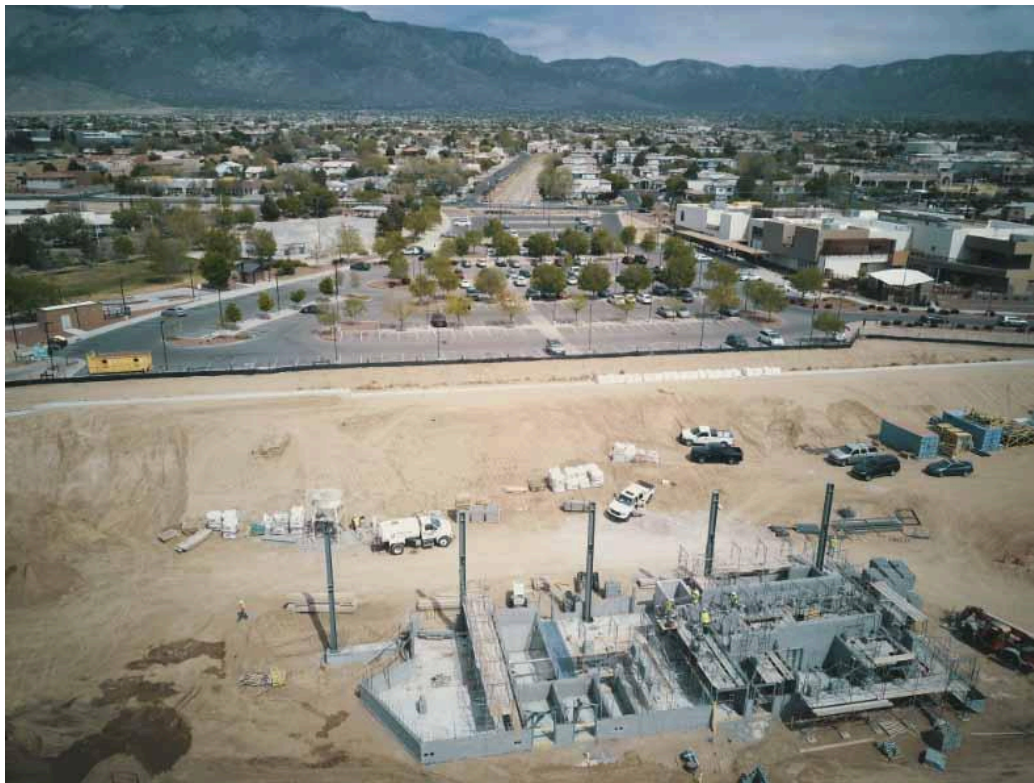
3-26-25 – 6740 Akademeia Loop NE. Pulte Homes site plans for another house at Estates at Academy. Cherry Hills NA notified.

### **NDBMC Report for April 2025 Meeting**

"...even Cornhole!"...yup, in addition to the usual fitness, social and educational opportunities here at the Center. Every month has a "Pie Social" and a "Birthdays" event. April 25 features a trip to Jericho Nursery and live music at lunch! Become a member for \$20/yr!...









### **Jim Souter - Metro Parks & Rec Report & Councilor Brook Bassan Update**

Bike Trail in Vista Del Norte.- They are asking for funding to convert the asphalt bike trail to what it was originally planned for, a concrete walking trail and let the city take care of the rest. Jim's suggestion- at your neighborhood association meetings ask for Parks and Recs to attend and ask what they would recommend for enhancements of your local park. They can provide a breakdown for cost and that is a starting point.

On Tuesday, April 8th Dawn Marie arranged a meeting between myself as your district 4 representative on the metropolitan parks and recreation advisory board , Our city counselor Brooke, Dawn Marie, parks director Dave Simon, assistant director David Flores and city Council policy analyst.

In that meeting, we got updates on the Vista Del Norte Park, the aquatic center, the balloon fiesta park, the Alameda Little League complex, the Vineyard Estates and our updates included the capital implementation program for the Vista Del Norte Park and the Vista Del Norte trail.

At this meeting, I learned that the GO (General Obligation) bond allocation, up for vote, was for \$80 million with \$5.5 million for the aquatic center.

Also, in that meeting discussed was the swing set installed at the Vineyard Estates, the Heritage East shade structure and benches, the Quintessence drinking fountain, the resurfacing of the tennis courts and the Arroyo Del Oso gazebo and cart path.

In listening to the conversations between our city counselor and our parks director I was truly amazed at the efforts our city counselor had made in sharing expenses with our parks department in enhancing our parks.

In visiting the Alameda Little League complex I could see the security factors that have been done and I was told that this year's funding will enhance the T-ball field and the handicap accommodations for the complex. In listening to the conversation between our park's director and our city counselor, I could easily see that our city counselor has been very active over the past several years in the development of the Alameda Little League and enhancing the surrounding area for the balloon park.

The balloon fiesta park is working on getting the electrical lines underground and infrastructure in the tech area. The proposed stadium area is in the judicial process.

The aquatic center will be involved with concrete and masonry work for the next 4 to 6 weeks and we are looking for \$12 million to complete this phase.

Vista Del Norte Park has \$274,000 available and estimates over \$800,000 to complete the project as proposed. I will be asking the VDN board for their thoughts on how they wish to see it finished.

The Vista Del Norte trail has \$450,000 allocated is being proposed to meet city specs and turned over to the department who supervise and maintain the rest of our sidewalks in our alliance and get it out of the parks trail system.

Councilor Baca introduced a landmark quality of life enhancement fund ordinance proposal, bill #0-25-77. The proposal recommends raising the gross receipts tax from 1/8 to 3/8 to be used by the councilors to enhance cultural and recreation space in their districts. At the parks meeting I was told this had the potential of generating between \$30-\$50 million per year and basically would be a part of our city counselors' discretionary funds. Mr. Baca's tactful approach was to indicate that the first enhancement project to be done was that of the aquatic center which just happens to fall within the district of the president of the city Council. His second enhancement project would be for the performing arts Center in his district

What I most liked about this proposal was putting those funds directly in the hands of our city councilors. In my meeting of the MPRAB it was noted that there were many fine enhancement projects for our city that did not obtain any funding support from our session. One of those enhancement projects was the display of the USS Albuquerque submarine and displaying it in a water setting in the tingly beach area. The theme of this



park is to illustrate our state's involvement in the military and will be in a setting unlike anything in the United States. In this meeting we voted to rename one of our city parks in commemoration of one of our navy female veterans and this will be the first in our city and state. I have suggested adding a memorial wall to the project.

I close with this; the recent storm and fire damage we all are reading about have escalated construction costs. We now face the word tariff.